

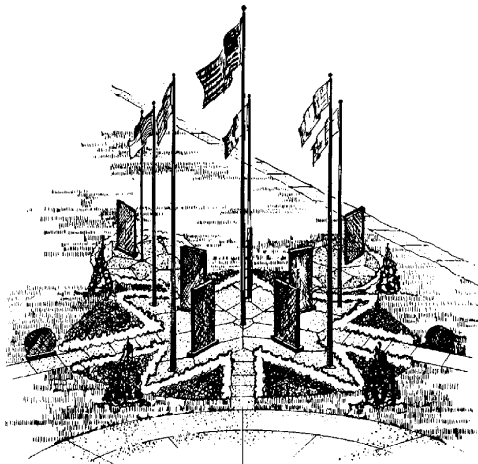


Streamwood Veterans Memorial



VETERANS COMMISSION (1989)

In November 1989, members of the Streamwood Village Board and staff, along with a few residents of the community, discussed the possibility of building a memorial between Village Hall and the Police Station to honor American veterans. Local veterans and veteran organizations also expressed an interest in the idea. As a result, the Veterans Commission was formed to guide the creation of this special memorial.



VETERANS MEMORIAL (1991)

The Commission members agreed that such a memorial should honor all veterans, regardless of which branch of the military they served in, as well as Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. This Veterans Memorial is the culmination of the Commission's vision. It includes a memorial and historical walk to honor, in perpetuity, those who have served our country and preserved our freedom. Dedicated on May 26, 1991, a five-pointed star sits at the center of the memorial. A flagpole and a black granite monolith, representing each military branch, is positioned on every point. Each monolith displays the great seal of a branch of service on one side and engraved on the other side is a saluting serviceman and photo pertaining to the branch. Positioned in the center of the star is a larger flagpole, which flies the American flag. Another flagpole stands in a smaller star, just off the main star, flying the POW/MIA flag. Finally, there is a black granite monolith engraved on one side with the POW/MIA symbol and a figure in a POW Camp is on the other side.



WOMEN'S MONOLITH (1997)

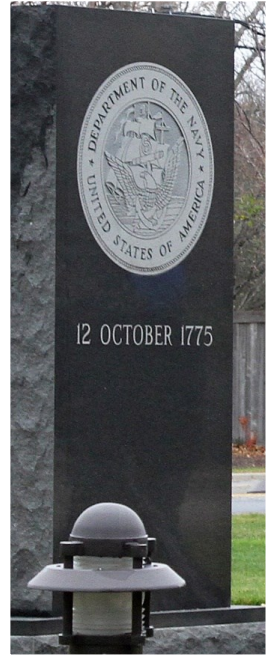
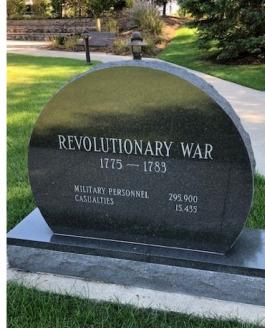
Dedicated on May 25, 1997, a special monolith pays tribute to all women in the military. It is positioned in a small star, just off the main walk and constructed of black granite. Engraved on one side is an image of the globe, surrounded by the five branches of service. On the other side are women of service rendering a hand salute, along with a woman helping a fallen comrade.

The memorial is flanked by a historical walk. This walk approaches the main memorial area and continues to the opposite side of the grounds. It is lined with black granite markers. Each marker lists every armed conflict recognized by Congress, beginning with the Revolutionary War. These Conflict Stones are engraved with the name of each battle, years of involvement, number of U.S. military personnel involved and the number of U.S. casualties.



MONOLITHS

- Army (1775)
- Navy (1775)
- Marine Corps (1775)
- Coast Guard (1790)
- Air Force (1947)
- POW / MIA
- Women's Monolith



CONFLICT MARKERS

- Revolutionary War (1775-1783)
- Indian Wars (1789-1898)
- War of 1812 (1812-1815)
- Mexican War (1846-1848)
- Civil War (1861-1865)
- Spanish-American War (1898-1902)
- World War I (1917-1918)
- World War II (1939-1945)
- Korean War (1950-1953)
- Vietnam War (1958-1975)
- Dominican Republic Revolution (1965-1966)
- Grenada Invasion (1983)
- Lebanon Conflict (1983-1987)
- Panama Invasion (1989-1990)
- Persian Gulf War (1990-1991)
- Iraq War (2003-2011)

OTHER MEMORIAL ELEMENTS

HOWITZERS (1996)

Two decommissioned 155 mm Howitzers (large ranged weapons designed to throw exploding shells in an arcing trajectory), circa 1955.



WAR DOG (2001)

The War Dog Memorial was dedicated on May 27, 2001 and pays tribute to all of the canine companions that served in the military and gave their lives to save their human comrades. Located at the main entrance to the memorial area, this bronze statue depicts a dog alerting a soldier.



BATTLEFIELD CROSS (2016)

A Fallen Soldier Battle Cross, Battlefield Cross, or Battle Cross, is a symbolic representation to signify the death of a soldier in battle. The practice began during the American Civil War to identify fallen soldiers on the battlefield. The cross is composed of the soldier's rifle, bayonet attached, dug into the ground with the helmet resting on top of the rifle, dog-tags hanging off the rifle and the soldier's combat boots placed where the rifle meets the ground. The purpose of the Battlefield Cross is to pay honor and respect to the fallen heroes at the battle site. Fellow members of the troop typically erect them because it is not possible to hold a funeral while still on the warfront.

**All
gave
some
and
some
gave
all.**



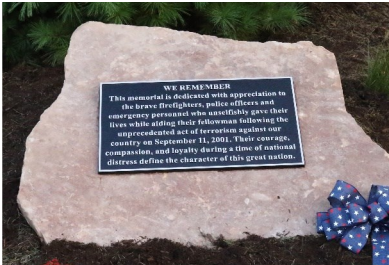
MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES

The annual ceremonies begin with a POW/MIA Candlelight Vigil at 8:00 pm on Saturday night. The Vigil Guard patrols through the night leading into the Memorial Day Ceremony on Sunday at 11:00 am. This ceremony includes participants from many area veterans' organizations, VFW, American Legion, Viet Now and Color Guards, which line the walk in front of the Conflict Stones. Each year volunteers from every branch of service perform the Table Ceremony, symbolic of those military personnel who did not return home. Guest speakers have included several Congressional Medal of Honor recipients as well as Senators, Representatives and other dignitaries.



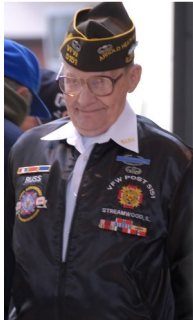
SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE

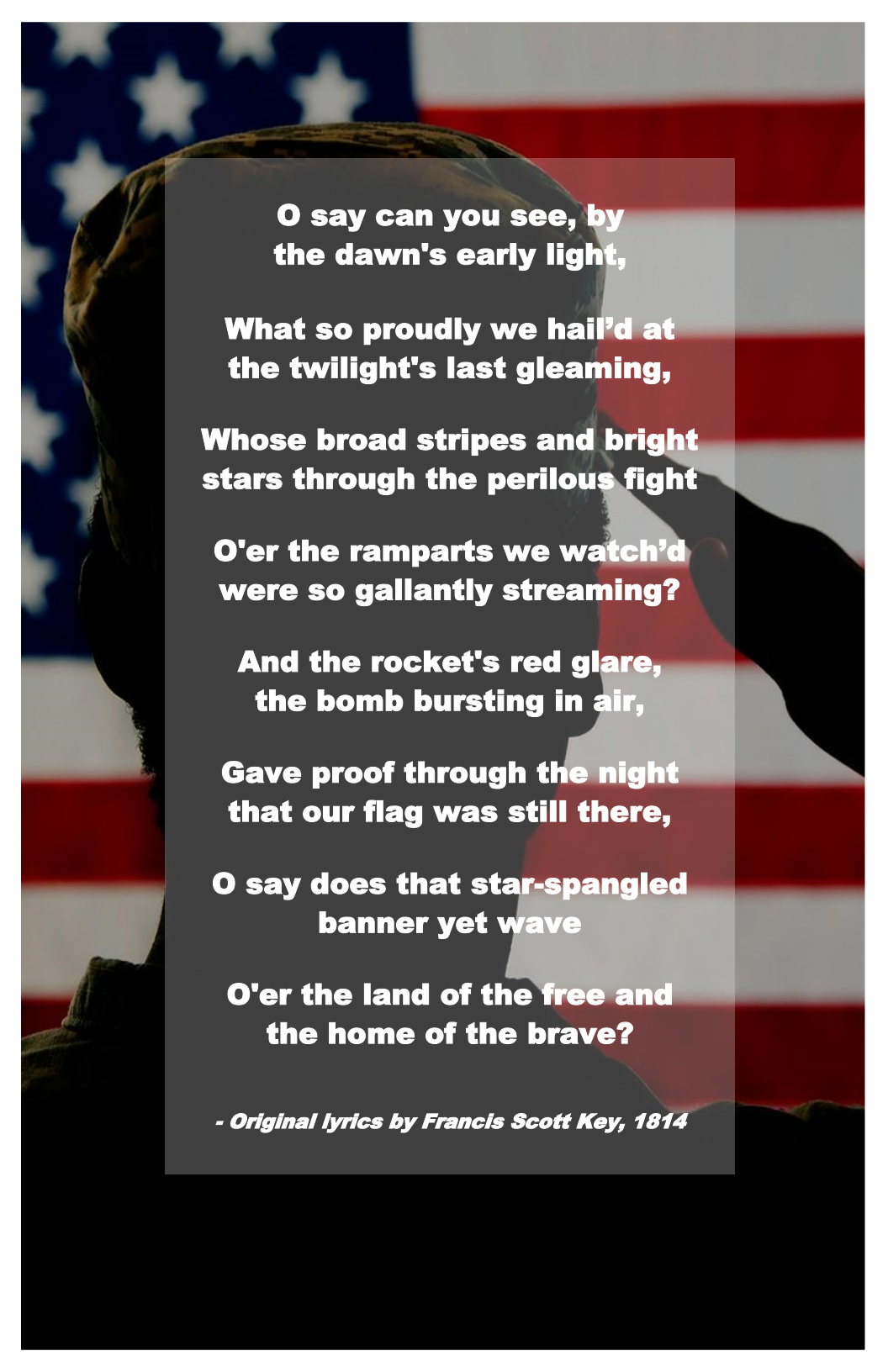
In 2017, the Veterans Commission inaugurated a new remembrance observation. The Commission dedicated a plaque to the memory of the victims, civilians, police officers, firefighters and emergency personnel, who perished in the September 11, 2001 terror attacks. The recognition includes the 13-Folds Ceremony, Bell Ceremony, 21-Gun Salute and Taps. The Commission hosts this annual memorial observation on September 11 at 7:00 pm.



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Each year, on November 11 at 11:00 am, the Commission hosts a ceremony at the memorial to honor all veterans of the Armed Forces. This ceremony is much simpler and more intimate than the Memorial Day Ceremony. Local Boy and Girl Scout Troops bring their flags and several Color Guards participate in the observance. The Commission looks upon this as an opportunity to educate our children on the military history of our great nation.



The background of the image is a blurred American flag with its characteristic stars and stripes. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a man's head and shoulders is visible, wearing a military-style cap. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey rectangular area in the center of the image.

**O say can you see, by
the dawn's early light,**

**What so proudly we hail'd at
the twilight's last gleaming,**

**Whose broad stripes and bright
stars through the perilous fight**

**O'er the ramparts we watch'd
were so gallantly streaming?**

**And the rocket's red glare,
the bomb bursting in air,**

**Gave proof through the night
that our flag was still there,**

**O say does that star-spangled
banner yet wave**

**O'er the land of the free and
the home of the brave?**

- Original lyrics by Francis Scott Key, 1814

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE

- **Armed Forces Day**—the 3rd Saturday of May; honors **those currently serving**
- **Memorial Day**—the last Monday of May; honors **those who died while serving**
- **Veterans Day**—November 11; honors **those who served**



THE 13 FOLDS OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

Fold 1: is a symbol of life.

Fold 2: is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

Fold 3: is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country; to attain peace throughout the world.

Fold 4: represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

Fold 5: is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country", in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.

Fold 6: is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

Fold 7: is a tribute to our Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

Fold 8: is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.


Fold 9: is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

Fold 10: is a tribute to the father, for he too, has given his sons and daughters for defense of our country since they were first born.

Fold 11: represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Fold 12: represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

Fold 13: the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust".



**The price
of freedom
is high.
We cannot
afford to
forget
those
willing to
pay for it.**



HOW TO SUPPORT THE MEMORIAL

The Commission is always seeking volunteers for its annual events. If you are interested in participating, please call 630-736-3800.

Your financial support will help maintain the Streamwood Veterans Memorial. All donations are tax deductible and may be made to:

The Streamwood Veterans Memorial Fund
c/o Village of Streamwood
301 East Irving Park Road
Streamwood, Illinois 60107-3096

Or online at streamwood.org



*THIS BOOK WAS COMPILED AND
DISTRIBUTED BY THE STREAMWOOD
VETERANS COMMISSION.*



Commemorative Challenge Coins are available to purchase at the Village Hall cashier counter for a minimum donation. Funds are being raised for a new Battle Marker. Thank you for your support!