

ADDING THE WALK OF HONOR MONUMENT

When you create a new monument to honor individuals it takes a lot of research and talking to many people to find out who qualifies to be on a monument such as the Walk of Honor Monument. The Walk of Honor Monument is honoring service personnel that have received one or more of the Battlefield Medals awarded by the Armed Forces.

The different branches of service have different designs and sometimes different names for the same medal. These are the Medals a person must be awarded to have their names on this monument. The Medal of Honor; Distinguished Service Cross, Army; Navy Cross, Navy & Marine Corps; Air Force Cross, Air Force; Defense Distinguished Service Cross; Distinguished Service Medal; Silver Star; Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit; Distinguished Flying Cross; Soldier's Medal, Army; Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Navy & Marine Corps; Airman's Medal, Air Force; Bronze Star; Purple Heart and Prisoner of War Medal.

Of these 12 medals, 6 of them have been awarded to Armed Forces members from Iola and Scandinavia. The same people have also received many other medals and commendations. The following information is listed with each person that is honored on this monument; Name, Date they entered the service, Branch of service they served in, Theater of Operations they were in when they received the medal, Date they were discharge or date Killed in Action, Commendations received of the medals listed on the monument. These honorees are War Hero's.

To find out who qualifies for this monument you have to do a lot of research, such as talking to family members and other people, looking at old news paper articles from The Iola Herald, look at The American Legion books that were printed, the first was printed after World War II, this book tells you who served in World War I and World War II. The second book was printed later and listed veterans from the Korean War and the Vietnam War. They both also list those who served in peacetime.

These books give you information of some of the medals and commendation they received and then you have to verify that information, and that is best done by getting each veteran's DD-214, which lists each medal and commendation they received. A DD-214's is confidential, so you have to get them through the veteran or family member.

Then there is the hardest part, raising the money which can range from \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00. many businesses, organizations, families and the general public help as much as they can. You get many no's, but you have to keep visiting possible donors. Some families will donate \$1,000, some will donate \$25, but you know that \$25 was as hard to come up with as the family that donated the \$1,000 because of their income.

When you add a new monument to a park there is also a lot of hard and costly work involved, including digging trenches for electrical and digging out a large area for the concrete base for the location of the monument, plus adding electrical wiring in conduit and light fixtures to light up the monument. Pouring a concrete base strong and thick enough with extra rebar to hold several tons of granite.

The American Legion Post 14 received help from the Sonnentag Foundation of the County Materials Corp. in Stevens Point, they donated \$1,216 of concrete for the Walk of Honor Monument area. Earl Lukaszewski did all of the electrical work free of charge. We are grateful for their contribution to help achieve our goal toward this monument. Many others also volunteered their time to make this monument possible and we are also grateful to them.