

My name is John Mallo and I am the Chairman of the Eden Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee. I would like to thank the Committee and the Community for all their support for this memorial.

Our memorial is divided in to two half “Service to County” and “World Peace” Which we have talked about today. The remainder of the memorial is divided in three areas.

The first area is the south entrance, over by the lake, this area was set aside on recognize those that gave money to our memorial. Without those contributions we would not be here today dedicating this memorial. Our appreciation goes out to those contributors.

The second area is located in the north entrance on the east side. This area is for those who serviced our country. The names listed were put there by family members who wished to have there family member’s service recognized. If it was not for these people and their service to our country, we would not be here.

The third area is located in the north entrance too on the west side. This area is our “Wall of Honor”. This “Wall of Honor” has seventeen representing Eden Prairie’s best. They represent a cross section of American history. Eden Prairie has lost fine young men in every major war since the Civil War. Eden Prairie lost one soldier in the Civil War, four in World

War I, six in World War II, one leading up to the Korean War, three in Vietnam and two, so far, in the Iraq/ Afghanistan War.

Thirteen soldiers were in the Army, three were in the Marine Corp. and one was in the Air Force. Two were officers while fifteen were enlisted. While some were career soldiers, others were drafted. Some had very little education while others had their advanced degrees. Some were highly decorated but all served honorably.

These soldiers died differently too, five died in aircraft, one on the Bataan death march, while the rest were killed in ground combat. Two are buried at Arlington Cemetery, while three were never found and are still missing.

The scars of war are deep and affects families profoundly, each soldier left behind a mother and father, some left behind brothers and sisters, while six left behind wives, and nine children were left fatherless. This wall and memorial will stand as a reminder to the pain and sorrow that war brings to soldiers and their families, let us never forget. Today we have gathered here over 50 family members of the seventeen on our wall.

Could all family members of these seventeen please stand.

Our deepest thanks and sympathy go out to you and your family for your lost.

Thank you

Our memorial is very unique. It is the only veterans memorial to have more than just names listed of those who died. Our memorial has a brief biography and photo each soldier. Please take a look after our ceremony.

I would like everyone please raise for a monument of silence for those that have died in war.