



VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT

2025 MICHIGAN STATE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AU LAC COUNCIL 10724



GRAND KNIGHT – PATRICK A. BOHR

PROGRAM DIRECTOR – MARK F. KEHOE

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III. INTRODUCTION – David Furtah & Joseph Whitenight; Project Co-Chairman

As the Knights of the Au Lac Council worked to improve our parish cemetery, we realized how many veterans were laid were to rest there. Dave Furtah, Joe Whitenight, and Jim Mattina began discussing how fitting it would be to have a memorial to honor these brave souls.

IV. OVERVIEW – David Furtah & Joseph Whitenight; Project Co-Chairmen

We explored many options and decided to purchase a memorial stone with each veteran's name engraved on it. Then it was time to raise the funds needed for this project, research every name that would be engraved on the stone, choose the type of stone, and improve the area selected to place the monument. With the approval of Pastor Fr. Joe Esper and the cemetery manager, Patrick Pordon, we began to design and improve the area near the flag. It was necessary to put in electrical service, a water line to the cemetery, a catch basin, asphalt, and concrete work.

Money was raised from both the 3rd Degree Council and 4th Degree Assembly. We held a spaghetti dinner where we served over 200 folks, we held meat bingo, euchre parties, charity gaming events, and asked for donations from interested parties.

It took approximately two years to complete the project from start to finish. A ceremony was held to dedicate and bless the monument on June 1, 2024. The dedication was attended by Fr. Joe Esper, many parishioners, the Knights of Columbus Color Guard, and a Vietnam veteran, Jim Hellybuck, who survived an intense battle during the war. After the ceremony, many families took the opportunity to take group pictures gathered around the stone honoring their departed relatives.

V. CHRONOLOGY – Mark Kehoe; Program Director & Recorder

CHRONOLOGY (Notes from 3rd & 4th Degree meetings – does not include information regarding the purchase and engraving of a second stone)

- April 13, 2023 – Plans started for veterans monument in parish cemetery.
- June 22, 2023 – Motion approved to donate \$5000 for monument (4th Degree).
- July 6, 2023 – Motion approved to donate \$5000 for monument (3rd Degree).
- July 6, 2023 – Work started to clear out an area by the chapel for monument,
- September 30, 2023 – Spaghetti dinner fundraiser held.
- October 5, 2023 – Memorial stone ordered; checking names in cemetery.
- April 4, 2024 – Memorial stone arrived; to be engraved.
- May 23, 2024 – Engraving of monument complete.
- June 1, 2024 – Dedication ceremony held in St. Mary cemetery.

VI. ROSTER – Mark Kehoe; Program Director & Recorder

- SK James Mattina; Financial Secretary – Au Lac Council 10724
Faithful Navigator – St. Mary of the Lake Assembly 2804
- SK Joseph Whitenight; Project Co-Chairman – Au Lac Council 10724
Member – St. Mary of the Lake Assembly 2804
- SK David Furtah; Project Co-Chairman – Au Lac Council 10724
Member – St. Mary of the Lake Assembly 2804
- SK Mark Kehoe; Program Director & Recorder – Au Lac Council 10724
Member – St. Mary of the Lake Assembly 2804
- Patrick Pordon; Immaculate Conception Facilities & Cemetery Director
- Members of Au Lac Council 10724; Anchor Bay Council 5981 and St. Mary of the Lake Assembly 2804

VII. **FINANCIALS – James Mattina; Financial Secretary and Bryant Sebastian; Treasurer**

CATEGORY	MONTH	AMOUNT	VENDOR/PURPOSE
EXPENSE	JULY 2023	7500.00	PREMIER ASPHALT – ASPHALT
EXPENSE	JULY 2023	1601.80	THEUT CO. – CEMENT
EXPENSE	JULY 2023	316.60	JEFF SHIELD – ELECTRICAL MATERIALS
EXPENSE	AUGUST 2023	7600.00	DELUDE CONSTRUCTION – WATERLINE
EXPENSE	AUGUST 2023	1110.53	THEUT CO. – CEMENT WORK
EXPENSE	NOVEMBER 2023	139.65	DON PLEGUE – FLAG LIGHTS
EXPENSE	MAY 2024	5200.00	LINCOLN GRANITE – STONE & ENGRAVING
TOTAL	EXPENSES	\$23,468.58	

CATEGORY	MONTH	AMOUNT	SOURCE
FUNDING	JUNE 2023	5000.00	ASSEMBLY 2804
FUNDING	JULY 2023	5000.00	AU LAC COUNCIL 10724
FUNDING	JULY 2023	100.00	DONATION BY PARISHIONER
FUNDING	AUGUST 2023	100.00	DONATION BY PARISHIONER
FUNDING	AUGUST	10000.00	PARISH CEMETERY FUND
FUNDING	OCTOBER 2023	3300.00	AU LAC COUNCIL 10724
FUNDING	OCTOBER 2023	586.00	DONATION BY PARISHIONER
FUNDING	NOVEMBER 2023	20.00	DONATION BY PARISHIONER
FUNDING	NOVEMBER 2023	200.00	DONATION BY FAMILY OF VETERAN
TOTAL	FUNDING	\$24,306.00	

COUNCIL FUNDRAISERS INCLUDED SPAGHETTI DINNER (SEPTEMBER 2023) AND

OUTDOOR KNIGHTS EVENT (MARCH 2024)

VIII. MEDIA – Mark Kehoe; Program Director & Recorder





Michigan Knights of Columbus

June 1 · 🌟

Au Lac Council 10724 and St. Mary on the Lake Assembly 2804 in Ira Township hosted a dedication ceremony on June 1, 2024, to unveil a new memorial honoring the more than 200 veterans interred in the parish's two cemeteries. This event was attended by over 100 individuals, and Fr. Joseph Esper, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, presided over the blessing of the memorial.

This project represents the culmination of two years of meticulous research into the cemetery grave sites and records, as well as numerous fundraising activities.

The Knights express their gratitude to all those who contributed their time and resources to make this memorial a reality. It is a fitting tribute to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to secure the freedoms we cherish today.

Michigan State K of C Facebook Page

K of C Veterans Memorial Dedication

Knights of Columbus Au Lac Council 10724 and St. Mary on the Lake Assembly 2804 in Ira Township hosted a dedication ceremony at Sacred Heart Cemetery on Saturday, June 1st, to unveil a new memorial, honoring the more than 200 veterans interred in our parish's two cemeteries. Fr. Joe presided over the blessing of the memorial; which was attended by over 100 individuals.

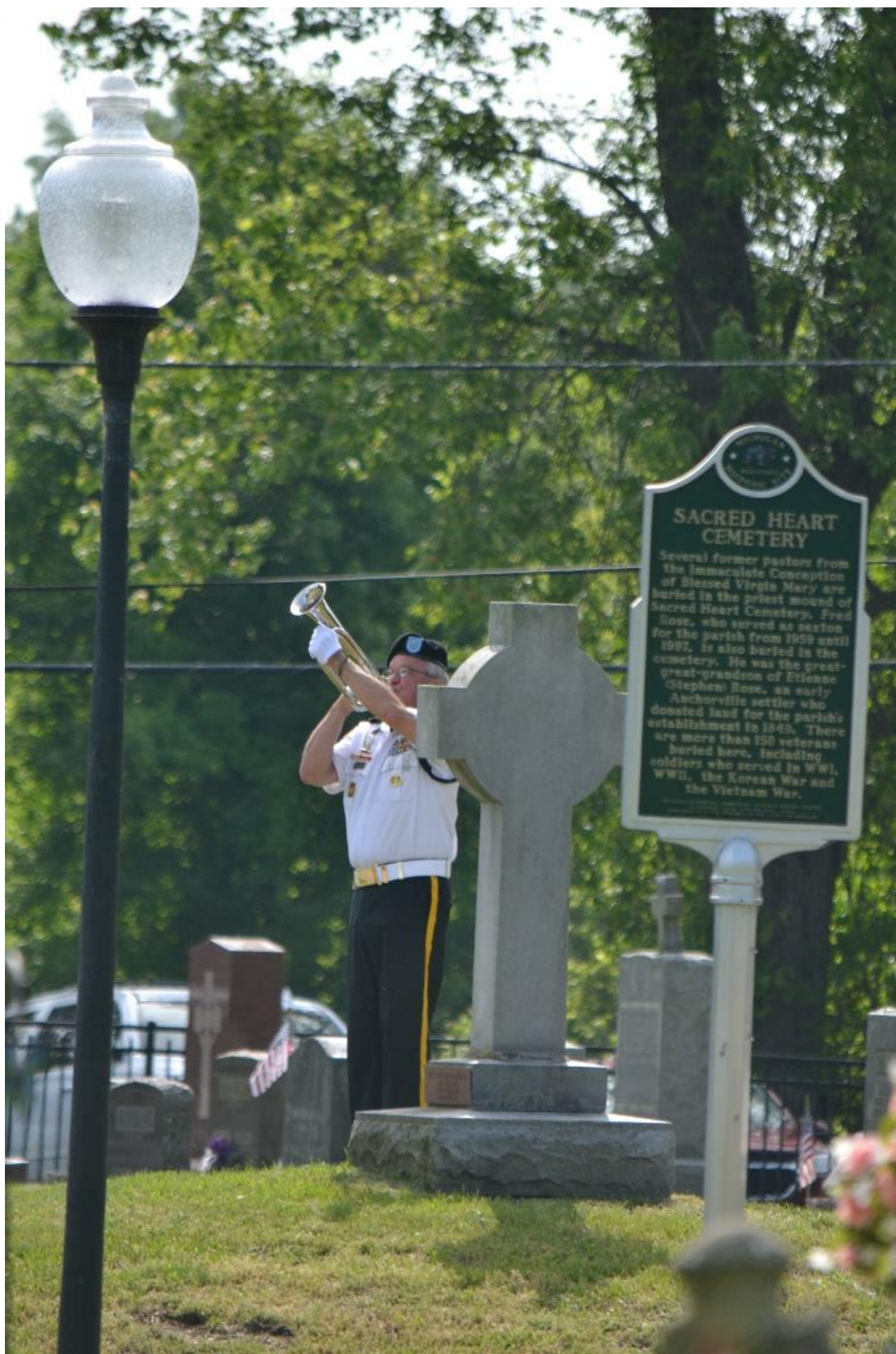
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The Knights express their gratitude to all those who contributed their time and resources to make this memorial a reality. It is a fitting tribute to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to secure the freedom we cherish today.

Anyone who has a Veteran buried in our cemetery, please visit the monument and if your family member is not listed, please contact Jim Mattina at jmattina1960@comcast.net or the Parish office.



Immaculate Conception Parish Church Bulletin



Start of Ceremony



VFW Post 7573 Color Guard



VFW Post 7573 Color Guard



VFW Post 7573 Color Guard



K of C Color Guard



K of C Color Guard



SK James Mattina FN Raising the Flag



21 Gun Salute



SK James Mattina FN Leading Ceremony



Fr. Joseph Esper Blessing Monument



I.C. School students singing The National Anthem



Ceremony Attendees



Ceremony attendees



Mrs. Judy Bohr; SK Patrick Bohr GK; SK Jeffrey Wooten PGK



SK Joseph Whitenight & Family



SK James Mattina FN; SK Joseph Whitenight; Patrick Pordon Cemetery Director



Brother Knights & Patrick Pordon



K of C Color Guard



SK Joseph Whitenight; SK David Furtah; SK James Mattina FN



Monument – Front Side



Monument – Back Side

X. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS – David Furtah; Joseph Whitenight & James Mattina

- Fr. Joseph Esper, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish
- Patrick Pordon, Facilities & Cemetery Director for Immaculate Conception Parish
- Knights of Columbus Au Lac Council 10724
- Knights of Columbus Anchor Bay Council 5981
- St. Mary of the Lake Assembly 2804
- K of C Color Guard
- VFW Post 7573 Color Guard
- Veronica Dupuis and Brad Vargo for their hard work on the spaghetti dinner
- Bonnie Montacer for leading the singing of The National Anthem
- Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
- Robert Clancy Contracting, Inc.
- Holsbeke Construction Inc.
- Tom Thorton
- Jean Corbat
- Clay Township Police Dept.
- Paul Sattler
- Rob Kehrig
- Kevin Hagood
- Don Plegue
- Patrick Clancy
- Nick Clancy
- Jeff Shields
- Chris Swanson

XI. COMMENTS – Mark Kehoe; Program Director & Recorder

- Over the course of several years, Joe Whitenight and I have frequently discussed the importance of memorializing our veterans because they weren't recognized in our cemetery. After doing countless hours of research, we decided that the best way to honor those who courageously served our country would be to have their names engraved on a memorial stone, for all who enter the cemetery to see and offer a place to stop and say a prayer in their memory. We thought that this would be a wonderful tribute for the families of our veterans to enjoy as well. It has a personal meaning for me as well since I have several family members who commemorated on the stone, including my father and brother.
David Furtah (K of C member)
- Long awaited memorial for so many who gave their lives for our country.
Robert Kettel (K of C member)
- It was a wonderful tribute to all the veterans!
Theresa Whitenight (wife of Joe Whitenight; K of C member)

- A truly glorious day!
Felicia Szczepanski (wife of Dave Szczepanski; K of C member)
- Absolutely Awesome Event!!! Thank You for appreciating our Service People!!
Cathy Furtah (sister in law of Dave Furtah; K of C member)
- Thank you to the Knights for all the wonderful things you do for our parish.
Fr. Joseph Esper (Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish)
- It's amazing how much coordination and cooperation goes into a project like this. The area around the flag pole where the stone is placed was all grass. Members of the Council and Assembly worked to dig out the area, reroute the drainage and sewers, repair and relocate water and electrical at the adjacent chapel. Then very decorative river rock style concrete was laid prior to installing the memorial stone.

The work that was needed to erect the monument gave the cemetery a much more aesthetic appearance. Using the talents of the Knights, we were able to complete work that would have cost thousands of dollars if it were done by a contractor.

Thanks to all those that provided sweat equity, as well as all who helped with the spaghetti dinner and other fund-raising events which made this project possible. For me this adds more meaning to "resting in peace" once I am buried there, knowing that I worked and played a part in keeping the cemetery attractive and vibrant for years to come.

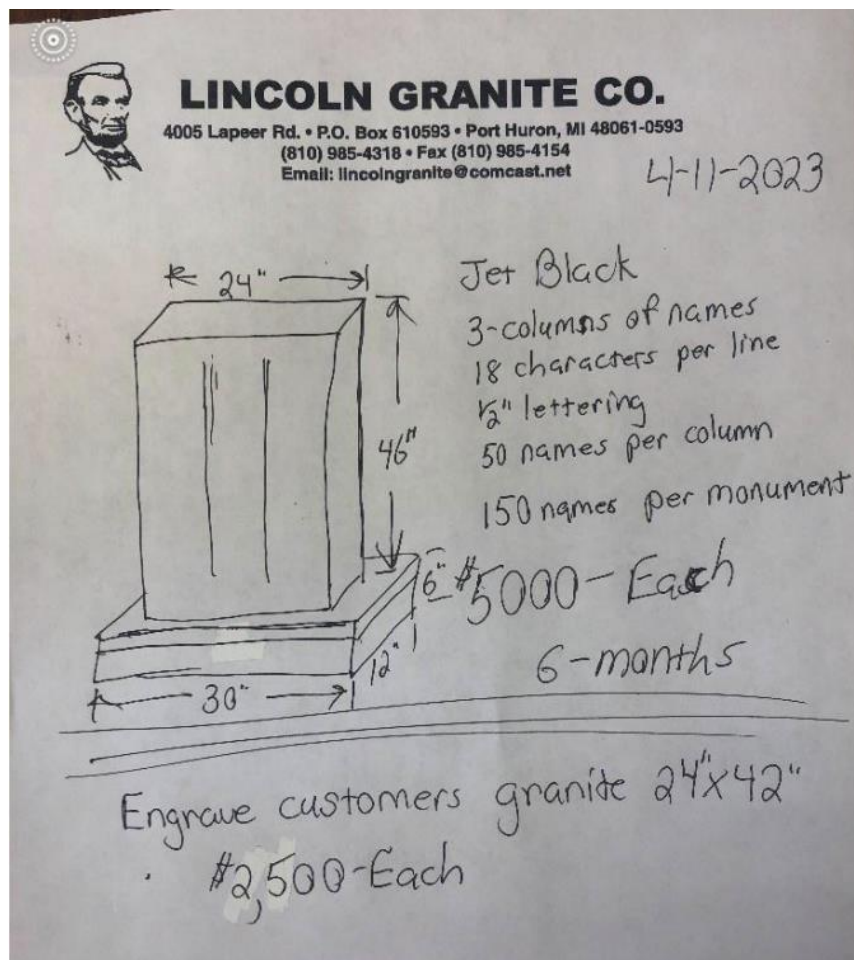
Patrick A. Bohr (Grand Knight of Au Lac Council 10724)

XII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – James Mattina; Financial Secretary & Faithful Navigator

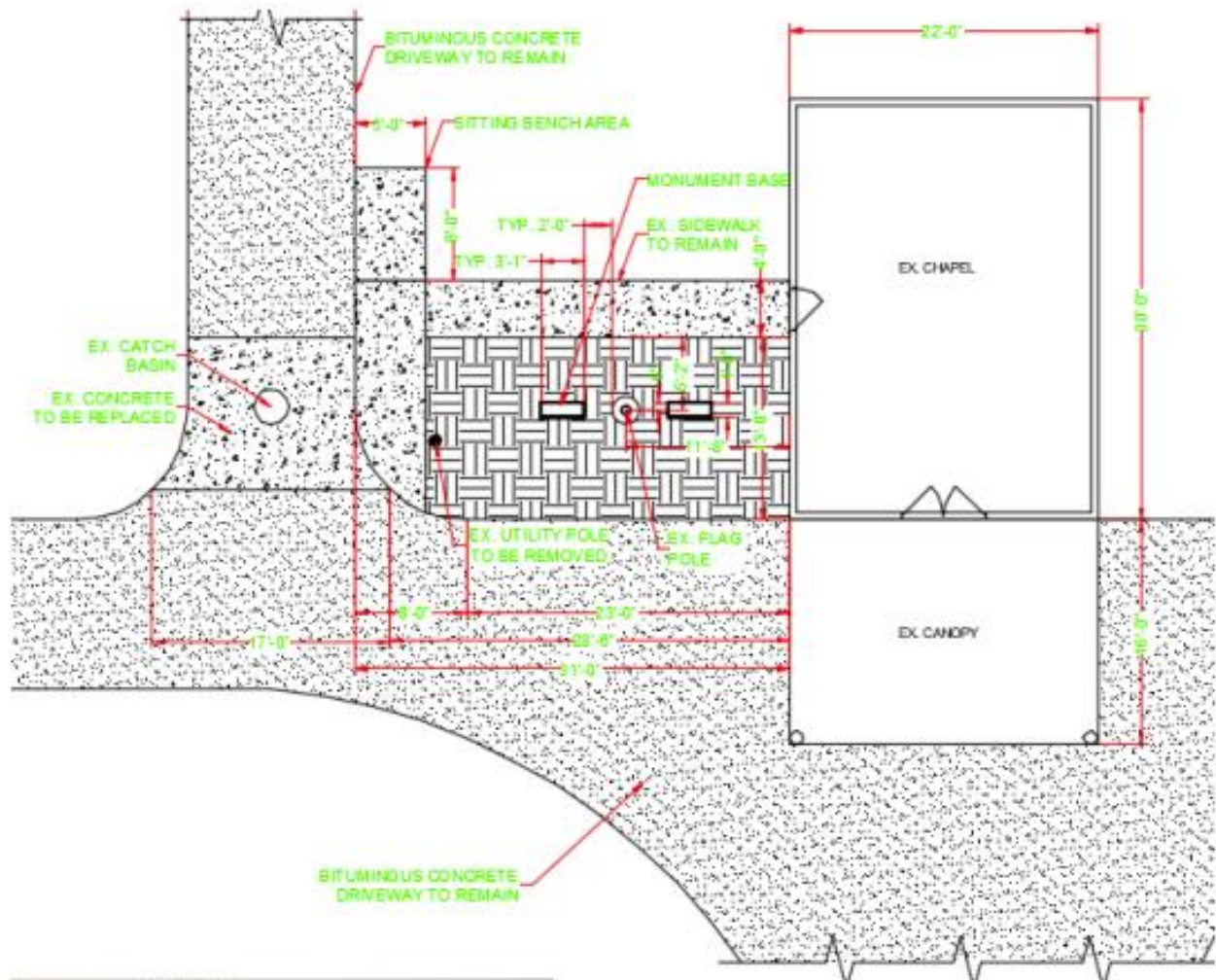
On Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 11:04 AM, Lincoln Granite wrote:

Stone Only Options.

- 46 tall plus base = 52 from ground tall Engraving summary: (3) columns of names 18 Character per line $\frac{1}{2}$ " letters 50 names per column. 150 names total \$3500.00 each
- 60+6+66 tall from ground 60 names per column. 180 names total \$4600.00 each
- 66+6 = 72 tall from the ground 66 names per column. 198 names total \$4950. each
- New Medallions are not included. (If a K of C 4th Degree Medallion is added)
- Installation of a medallion add \$200.00. each. They will be installed with special stone adhesive.
- The 66 and the 72 tall will have stainless steel dowel pins connecting due to overall height. If you want pins in the shorter one (original height add \$324. making it \$3824.00. A 30x12x6 base in the same color is included.
- Best Regards, Brad Beck President
- 50% to order 6-8 months is the lead time for these to arrive



Cemetery Site Plan



Option Items that could be added to the Site.