

## Monument Cemetery *Garden of Honor* Dedicated to those who have served our country



even minimal upkeep costs, such as grass mowing, which costs more than \$16,000.00 per year.

On September 18, 2022, the Edgewater Park community-at-large gathered at an Open House for Monument Cemetery to remember those Veterans who served our country and had resided in our surrounding communities.

We have formed a small fundraising committee to address some more immediate financial needs and commitments of the cemetery. The committee is comprised of American Legion members, local Vets from different branches of service, and other community leaders:

Under the gazebo, you can see Bobbie Riggs, from the American Legion, who performed the White Table Ceremony honoring the Fallen Soldier.

President of the Board of Directors, George Stevenson, cooked hot dogs for the day. Other committee members were Ralph Ulissi – who chairs the Veterans Garden of Honor; Walt Krause and Tony Rizzo – local Veterans; Cemetery Trustees Teresa Loudon, John Fennimore, Charlene Rogers,

In 1999, Monument Cemetery added a Veterans Section, *Garden of Honor* for local Veterans. I have met with Mr. Ralph Ulissi, Monument Cemetery Board of Trustees, on several occasions to consider ideas for funding. This historic Monument Cemetery, created in 1865 near the Beverly National Cemetery, is looking to the public for financial assistance to maintain the cemetery itself, as well as promote the *Veterans Garden of Honor*.

Last year the cemetery only sold a dozen gravesites at \$900 each for income of less than \$12,000, and it also received some monthly interest from a state-mandated trust account into which it deposits a portion of the cemetery income. The principle of that account is untouchable at this point.

The cemetery has not been selling enough gravesites to generate sufficient income to pay for



and Ms. Judy Hall; plus, PTO representative Karen McLaughlin; and Elks Veterans Committee Chair Jack Joyce.

Boy Scouts were represented by Dan Kellaway and Amy Bergstrom from Troop 764, with special thanks to Scouts Dylan and Alex for raising the American Flag for the Pledge of Allegiance.

While the Open House was well-attended and received many generous donations from the surrounding communities, we are still short of our goal and are continuing our fundraising efforts.

To help that effort, our Veterans' Grave Sale (less than ½ price, at \$400.00) continues until Veterans Day, November 11, 2022. What a meaningful gift for a beloved Veteran in your family or neighborhood!



When we all come together for such an honorable and deserved cause, we can accomplish great things in this small town. So please forward any donations you can make directly to Monument Cemetery, 812 Bridgeboro Road, Edgewater Park, NJ 08010.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Kevin P. Johnson, Deputy Mayor  
Edgewater Park Township







