

MILAN, MI- Less than two years after its initial completion, the popular Milan Veterans Wall of Honor ran out of room for new names. Through a cooperative effort between the City of Milan and Moving Milan Forward, two new wings were added to make sure our local veterans continue to be honored. The expansion, completely paid for by private funds, adds over 100 names and leaves room for nearly 400 additional names in the future. “This is a living tribute to our veterans and we want to make sure it serves them well after we are gone,” says Tom Dupuis who co-chaired the project.



In addition to the two wings, this \$32,000 expansion adds a walkway around the back of the entire veteran’s wall area, two new granite panels, and a flower bed. “This is something Milan should really be proud of. It is one of a kind, and a bold expression of how much we support and appreciate those from our community who have served our country,” says Michael Armitage who co-chaired the project.

In honor of our veterans, and to celebrate the enhanced memorial, there will be a ceremony on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. The ceremony will involve many local veterans, community members, and local organizations coming together to honor our veterans. Mr. Armitage also pointed out the added significance to one of the new wings “the entire cost of one wing was donated in memory of Connie Schrock who passed away last year.” Connie was present at the 2011 ceremony, where her and her husband, Robert Schrock, unveiled the “battlefield cross” which is located in the center of the plaza. Michael Armitage indicated that “Mr. and Mrs. Schrock have been strong supporters of this project since the beginning. We appreciate the generosity and support they have given to the project. I am glad to have had the opportunity to get to know Connie, and work with her on the original project. We all miss her, but we are honored that she will be memorialized as a part of the expanded wall.” Many donors have made this possible, and we appreciate them all.

This project wouldn’t have been possible without the hard work of the City of Milan Veterans Wall Committee. Those serving on that committee include: Michael Armitage, Tom Dupuis, Martha Churchill, Dan Fromm, and Ann Gee. Also, additional volunteers include Ken Bibee, Thom Publiski, Rick Olson, Jim and Linda Gilson, Doug Gilson, Dan Walters, and Angela Obeginski. Garrett Landscape completed the construction and the granite was delivered by LeClair Monuments. Part of the project was funded by a grant from the Greater Milan Area Community Foundation.

The Milan Veterans wall of Honor was dedicated on November 11, 2011. It is located in Wilson Park in Downtown Milan. It contains the names of over 900 veterans who have served honorably from the Milan area. Forms to add names to the wall can be found at [www.milanmich.org](http://www.milanmich.org) and at City Hall.