

In December of 2015, Wallingford American Legion Post #52 was approved to receive a M114A2 Howitzer as a "Conditional Deed of Gift" from the United States Army. Our intent was to make this static display the focus of a memorial to honor the men and women of our military services who courageously served our country and to recognize the loyal support and sacrifices of their families.

Prior to approval, the Army mandated specific requirements for a permanent concrete pad to support the weight (12,800 lbs.) of the cannon and carriage. Due to cold weather conditions, we were unable to meet the requirements and risked losing the opportunity of acquiring the Howitzer. Fortunately, the U.S. Army 424 Engineer Company offered to provide a secure storage location at their Rutland facility. The Army Donations Program subsequently waived the requirement and agreed to the proposal. We then made arrangements to have the Howitzer transported from Baltimore, MD., to Rutland.

In early spring we were finally able to break ground and go to work. Although the majority of funding for the project was raised by our own members, we could never have achieved our goal without the generous help from local businesses, contractors, and private citizens. The support we received was overwhelming and included donations of material as well as the expertise and operation skilled machine operators.

On October 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm, we will officially dedicate the memorial in Veterans Memorial Park. Post #52 cordially invites all members of the public to join us and honor the service of our veterans and their families. After the ceremony, refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall at the First Congregational Church. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Tom Truex at 446-3891.

American Legion Post #52 is exceptionally grateful for the support of the following;

Phillip Baker Construction	J .P. Carrara & Sons, Inc.
The Home Depot	Breadloaf Corp. & Joe Lattuca
Steve Drzewiczewski & Green Mt. Power	Kevin Mulholland (Vermont Forging)
Fabian Earthmoving	U.S. Army, 424 Engineer Co.
John R. Loomis Trucking	Wallingford Highway Dept.
Donald Dorr	Mac Steel Company
Noble's Ace Hardware	Lynn Edmunds
Bond Auto & Pat DeSalvo	Rob Barker Tree Service
Aldous Funeral Home	Lucky Corey, Inc.
Equinox Valley Nursery & Joe Will	Wallingford Crushed Stone
Holden Memorials	Santelli Signs
Green Mountain Drywall	Chip Gotlieb (Carpet King of VT)
Jim Marquis (House of Yesteryear)	