

Memories of Hardyston soldiers etched in stone

HARDYSTON — Despite setbacks, past, present and future veterans of Hardyston now have a place where they can always be remembered.

The veteran memorial, located at the Hardyston Municipal and Police Complex, was originally planned for dedication on Memorial Day but was delayed due to inclement weather, according to Patty Egan, secretary for the Hardyston Economic Development Commission. The memorial now will be dedicated before the start of Hardyston Day Sept. 6, but construction of the monument is already complete.

"What this was conceived to be was an on-going living memorial to continue on for days to come," Deputy Mayor and U.S. Air Force veteran Carl Miller said. Miller also serves as chairman of the Hardyston Township Economic Development Commission, which sponsored the monument.

"I'm a veteran myself," Miller said, "and in Hardyston we're very fortunate to have the beautiful park and recreation area. It just dawned on me one day that we're really missing something to honor the veterans."

Miller then worked with the commission, along with the Department of Public Works and township engineer to develop a design for the memorial. The engraved granite monument, erected near the flag pole, reads, "In honor of those Hardyston residents who served our country to preserve our freedom," followed by the phrase "all gave some ... some gave all." Engraved pavers with past and present Hardyston residents who have served in the military are dispersed among blank bricks for future service men and women along the circular "Honor Walk" path encompassing the statue.



Photo by Daniel Freel/New Jersey Herald

Hardyston Township Councilmen Frank Cicerale and Santo Verrilli are reflected in the Hardyston Township Veteran's Memorial Monument outside the township's municipal building. The monument will have its official dedication in September.

Monument to be dedicated in September

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Pavers can still be purchased to honor individual veterans for \$39 and are four by eight inches each. Those wishing to commemorate their service or those of their loved ones can do so by visiting the township website and downloading the veterans memorial brick order form. For more information, contact Patty Egan at 973-823-7020, ext. 9441.

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