

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The following is the story about the Brighton Veterans' Memorial located in downtown Brighton by the Mill Pond. Thanks to all those who made this memorial possible.

Brighton Veterans' Memorial

A Veterans memorial is a tangible representation of a much larger ideal. It is a place to give a community a way and to show acknowledgement and reverent appreciation to those who have served our country and for those who have died in service. It's a place of humble gratitude for their sacrifice and a place of reflection for their loss.

Brighton has been honored to have a memorial, a grand rock with a plaque that was installed at the Mill Pond in the 1950's. In an effort to upgrade the current memorial to world-class status, a small group of community members consisting of Ricci Bandkau, Bryan Bradford, Dennis Nauss, Chad Cooper, Piet Lindhout, Dick Price and the Brighton Senior Men's Club undertook this project. All veterans groups in the area took an active role in contributing to the design and backed its redesign when presented to the City of Brighton where it was received by unanimous approval.

Organizers said local contractors donated \$80,000 worth of labor to build the Brighton Veterans' Memorial in seven weeks; no dollars from taxpayers were used.

With a vision of a beautiful testimonial to the bravery of the soldiers who served, the existing memorial was moved to a new circular site. The new site features shiny granite on a raised circular base that holds the original veterans' rock, brass service medallions and flags for all six military branches, as well as the American flag surround the site. It has brick pavers with the names of those who served their country. (Additional engraved brick pavers can be purchased through the Veterans Memorial Committee.) Approximately 972 bricks engraved with veterans'

names have been installed at the site. Culminating in stately and proper memorial to those we honor.

Thousands packed the Brighton's Mill Pond area on November 9, 2013 to attend the official unveiling of this world-class memorial that a community built.

Surrounding the memorial is a garden maintained by the Brighton Garden Club. The club is honored to have designed and has continued to be responsible for maintaining this outstanding memorial garden. This garden was awarded first place in 2015 by Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

Please note that Commemorative Pavers may be purchased by any individual to honor a United States Veteran, who was honorably discharged, and will be placed at the Memorial on the "Veterans' Walk of Honor", or an area nearby as expansion allows.

Thank you to all who participated in this wonderful project.

(Information for the above was obtained from the Veterans' Memorial website along with updates and the photo supplied by Steve Conaway, Chairman, Brighton Memorial Committee.)

