
 NewsletterTUSCOLA COUNTY DECEASED
VETERANS MEMORIAL LIST

March 29, 2005

Dear Friends,

Preparation for this year's display is almost complete. The "Tuscola County Deceased Veterans Memorial List" will be displayed at the Millington-Arbela Township Library, 8530 Depot Street, in Millington during the month of May 2005 (May 2 through May 27). There will be an opening ceremony on Monday May 2, 2005 at 12:00 Noon. You are invited to attend.

The project has made great progress this past year, especially since January. The Memorial List now includes over 3400 records of veterans from our County. Five years ago the database contained 80 records, and the display was shown on a single poster board. Now the records are on pages of a book, but that is becoming difficult to manage. The database is the fundamental repository for collected data and the display is derived from the database as a report. There are records from as far back as the War of 1812 with six veterans identified from from Tuscola County. The Civil War component is almost complete we think. Committee member John Engels found the Adjutant General report from 1861 through 1866 and that enabled us to document many more Civil War veterans. Committee member Rita Easlick researched many Civil War records adding further accuracy. And committee member Arlene Robinson supplied additional material documenting veterans from more recent conflicts especially those from the Vassar and Mayville areas. In addition, records from Millington area cemeteries are included this year. So all in all the List is taking shape and eventually all our deceased veterans from the County will be remembered in this way.

The reason this type of work is important is because when a person finds a name he or she recognizes they pause for a moment and remember an instance, a memory, an occasion about a veteran they knew. Whether a veteran sacrificed his or her life on the battlefield or served our Nation and returned home, they did it for the greater good of our society, culture, and way of life. Service to our Nation is one of the most noble endeavors a person can undertake. It has been said that the memories of living generations rarely exceed 100 years. Yet if one record sparks a memory that time span may be extended. This is one reason this project is important.

May 2005 will mark the fifth year of our effort. I know of no other comparable County effort that honors our deceased veterans in this way. Our cemeteries and military records contain this information but it is not focused and presented in a format that is easily used or accessible. And this is why the committee felt this effort is important for Tuscola County.

Yours truly,

TCDVML Committee

Ed Jagosz, Don Lotter, Arlene Robinson, John Engels, Rita Easlick