



Newsletter

Tuscola County Deceased
Veterans Memorial -Project



5140 English Rd., Clifford, MI 48727

March 29, 2009

Dear Friends,

Our project continues to move forward. Progress is measured not only by the record count but also by the requests I receive to speak about our effort to account for our County's veterans who have passed on, leaving a legacy for us to permanently remember their contribution in preserving our Country's heritage. I am often asked why such a massive project like this would even be attempted. The answer is memorialized by one often quoted pronouncement "*A nation that forgets its defenders will itself soon be forgotten.*" — Calvin Coolidge. He was elected vice president under Warren Harding and became president in 1923 when Harding died. He was elected on his own, but he declined to seek reelection in 1928. He worked to restrain government growth and keep it from interfering with private enterprise. Today's circumstances tend to speak otherwise, yet our Project continues with volunteers who believe individuals, on their own, can accomplish something beyond their individual needs, without government help.

The project is in its ninth year. Our book, which in the most visible evidence, contains 6900 records mainly because of the exhaustive work done at Indinfields Township Cemetery. However all of Columbia Township Cemeteries were canvassed this past year with the help of many volunteers from Unionville. I am personally thankful for their help.

A perplexing aspect of the project is the unexplained difference between the total number of records and the records with no Conflict participation. There are 741 entries with no Conflict indication. I think a good portion of these entries can be explained by the Cold War, September 1945 to December 1991. Veterans that served during that period (excepting Korea and Vietnam) felt no particular mission threat. And consequently those veteran's families were never informed of any extraordinary experience by the deceased veteran. Because of this the veterans service is not noted at the time of death. The Cold War threat was never translated in an overt manner to the general population. However, Cold War veterans prevented the nuclear annihilation of our country.

The other aspect I struggle with is the veteran's date of death. Many records are shown on the website as xx/xx/xxxx, meaning we don't know when the veteran died. However with your help some of these records can be corrected.

The Ceremony this year will be at the Columbia Township Library, 6643 Merry St., Unionville 48767, May 1st at 11:00 AM. The Display will be shown from that date thru May 23rd. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Honor Guard team will perform a flag folding ceremony along with American Legion Post 421. You are invited to attend the May 1st Ceremony.

Yours truly,

TCDVML Project Committee

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