



VETERANS MEMORIAL GARDEN





In June of 2022 during St. John's Day Grand Master Richard J. Kessler and the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund broke ground for the site of a special Veterans Memorial Garden to be built at MCC.

The Veterans Memorial Garden at the Masonic Care Community will honor the legacy of American military veterans. The Garden will be a peaceful area dedicated to all five United States Uniformed Services and their respective Guard and Reserve Units - Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Veterans, military members, their families and friends will have a sense of pride in knowing the community cares, honors, and respects our veterans' dedication, sacrifices, and service.

War memorials are a dynamic force in society, showing the impact war has on the nation. The most tragic consequences of war are loss of life, and the maiming of body and spirit. Supporting the Veterans Memorial Garden helps provide a place for reflection, healing, sharing of experiences, and education.

Masons have an especially strong tradition of supporting our men and women in uniform. The Veterans Memorial Garden will be a historical legacy that honors this long-standing tradition of supporting our troops.

The Veterans Memorial Garden will be located in front of Wiley Hall on the Masonic Care Community campus. It will include numerous red, white and blue plants, shrubbery, and trees to reflect the patriotic spirit of those that have served their beloved country. The Garden will be a serene place for veterans and their families to have privacy in which to meditate and reflect on their loved ones who have served.

You have the opportunity to join in helping to support this very special project with your generous gift today.

**YOU MAKE MORE POSSIBLE
VETERANS MEMORIAL GARDEN DONATION OPPORTUNITIES**

The Veterans Gazebo

\$35,000 Donation

The centerpiece of the Veterans Memorial Garden will be the Veterans Gazebo. It will unify all areas of the Garden from an architectural perspective while also providing shelter from sun, rain and wind for visitors. As the Veterans Memorial Garden will be a place of serenity, healing and remembrance, the Gazebo is an important element of the project as it will provide a place for privacy in an open space.



**“THOSE WHO HAVE LONG ENJOYED SUCH
PRIVILEGES AS WE ENJOY FORGET IN TIME THAT
MEN HAVE DIED TO WIN THEM.”**

- FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

American Eagle Statue

(Donated by the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund)

The American bald eagle was adopted as the national bird symbol of the United States in 1782. The bald eagle was chosen for its majestic beauty, great strength, long life, and because it's native to North America. Once an endangered species, the bald eagle is an extraordinary conservation success story. The American Bald Eagle also symbolizes freedom, and it reflects and honors all veterans that served to protect the freedoms of everyone that lives in the United States of America.



"AND I'M PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN, WHERE AT LEAST I KNOW I'M FREE. AND I WON'T FORGET THE MEN WHO DIED, WHO GAVE THAT RIGHT TO ME."

- LEE GREENWOOD

Branch of Service Area Dedications

\$20,000 Donation per Section

There will be five sections of the Veterans Memorial Garden for each branch of the United States Military. These key areas of the Garden provide a gift opportunity for those that may have a very special connection to that particular branch of our Uniformed Services. Each of these areas will have the opportunity for donor-dedicated signage.



U.S. Army Garden Area: “This We’ll Defend”

As the oldest branch of the U.S. military, the U.S. Army’s motto is steeped in a long history of service to this country. The phrase “This We’ll Defend” was first used by the War Office of the Continental Army during the American Revolution in 1778.



U.S. Marine Corps Garden Area: “Semper Fidelis” – Always Faithful

The U.S. Marine Corps motto, “Semper Fidelis,” is legendary. However, “Semper Fi” (as it’s yelled, cheered, or used as a greeting) is not just a motto for the Marines – it’s a way of life. The phrase is Latin for “Always Faithful” and it embodies the Marine Corps’ forever commitment to both their fellow Marines and the United States.



U.S. Navy Garden Area

“Not self, but country,” is the phrase inscribed above the chapel doors of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. This unofficial motto invokes the spirit of sacrifice that so many sailors and members of our Armed Forces carry with them through their service. The U.S. Navy continues to fearlessly serve the United States both at home and abroad.



U.S. Air Force Garden Area: “Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win”

Formally adopted in 2010, the U.S. Air Force’s motto of “Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win” is both a call to action and a promise in response. The Air Force always pushes itself to new heights and expects its airmen to do the same.



U.S. Coast Guard Garden Area: “Semper Paratus” – Always Ready

For a military branch that is on-call 365 days a year to protect the waterways and people of the United States, the motto “Semper Paratus,” that is, “Always Ready,” is especially appropriate. No matter the rough waters, challenging ocean rescues, or long hours of ensuring national security, the U.S. Coast Guard is always ready to respond.



“Empty Chair” Dedication

\$10,000 Donation

A POW/MIA chair in any location is to remain perpetually empty to help people remember that even though our soldiers are not here, there is always space for them. This dedication area in the Veterans Memorial Garden will contain the symbolic “Empty Chair” and a commemorative plaque in honor of the supporter or supporters that are making this special donation, and this section of the Garden possible.

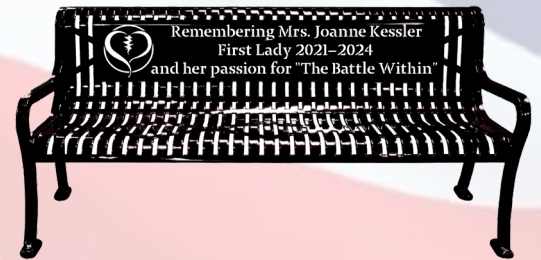


Joanne Kessler Garden Bench Dedication

Dedication

(Donated by the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund)

First Lady Joanne Kessler deeply believed in caring for veterans following their service to our country. She was a strong supporter of the “Battle Within” an organization that feels every veteran should have an equal opportunity to recover from the traumas they experienced while serving others. This bench is dedicated in her remembrance, and to those veterans she so strongly believed in helping.



Bench Dedication

\$5,000 Donation

Additional benches are a legacy item available to honor someone special. These benches will provide a resting spot for visitors to the Garden while also commemorating the life of a family member or loved one.

“DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY. THOSE THREE HALLOWED WORDS REVERENTLY DICTATE WHAT YOU OUGHT TO BE, WHAT YOU CAN BE, WHAT YOU WILL BE.”

- GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

Eagle Statue Foundation

\$5,000 Donation

The American Eagle Statue donated by the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund will be a key feature of the Veterans Memorial Garden. As such, there will be a beautiful brick foundation beneath the Eagle, which is available for dedication. This is an opportunity to join with the Trustees to be a part of this extraordinary focal point of the Garden.



Planter Boxes

\$2,000 Donation

As a key part of the striking aesthetics of the Veterans Memorial Garden, there will be outdoor planter boxes at the center section of the Veterans Memorial Garden. These beautiful planter boxes present another dedication opportunity.

Personalized Brick Dedication

\$200 Donation

The bricks that will line the Veterans Memorial Garden is an opportunity for you to commemorate a United States veteran, a veteran's family member, or a loved one. Each brick represents a personal story and will be 4 x 8 with three lines of text.



"SO LONG AS THE MEMORY OF CERTAIN BELOVED FRIENDS LIVES IN MY HEART, I SHALL SAY THAT LIFE IS GOOD."

- HELEN KELLER



Without the support and dedication of our diverse and enthusiastic community, we would never have come this far. With your help, we can go even further and make the Veterans Memorial Garden a beautiful reflection of pride and love that exists for our members of the United States Uniformed Services. Your tax-deductible donation fulfills this vision and helps create an extraordinary and special Garden for our Military Services in honor of what they have done for our country.



To make your charitable gift today, please contact:

**Mara Mulligan, Director of
Strategic Marketing and Philanthropy**
mulliganm@mccny.com or 315-798-4703

Michelle Smith, Development Manager
smithmi@mccny.com or 315-798-4768