



Veterans and First Responders Memorial at Fairfield Glade 2023 Annual Report

As we look back on 2023, we are grateful for the many things we were able to accomplish on behalf of the Memorial, including raising financial support and preparing for the construction of the Flag Plaza. While we have had some delays in our plans for construction due to higher costs and labor supply issues, we were able to close the year with the selection of a skilled general contractor who will soon start installing the foundation for the flags and the engraved pavers. Residents and visitors will soon see activity at Robin Hood Park as this work continues.

2023 achievements included:

- Selling over 400 engraved bricks that will be installed in the Flag Plaza in time for the planned 2024 Memorial dedication,
- Participating in several community and county events to raise the awareness of the Memorial and our plans for its continued development,
- Initiating construction of the Flag Plaza phase of the Memorial which included site preparation work at Robin Hood Park, and completing some of the electrical and lighting work in support of the Flag Plaza,
- Continuing our work with our architect Michael Versen, on the design for Phase II of the Memorial which is being referenced to as the Memorial Garden,
- Selecting a contractor to work with us to prepare the Flag Plaza for the installation of the engraved bricks and the flagpoles with appropriate lighting and
- Raising about \$104,000 in new private donations while spending approximately \$101,400 on operational and construction costs. Combined with previous fundraising efforts, we have raised about \$507,000 through 2023, and have expensed about \$175,000 on construction and other operational costs.

Two of the most significant activities for this period include construction progress and financial management:

Construction: We began the year with hopes of finishing more of the work needed on the Flag Plaza. However, in an effort to control escalating costs while retaining skilled, willing and available contractors we had to be prudent in how we proceeded. While slower than we hoped, we were able to reach an agreement with a skilled and experienced contractor who will be able to do the work we need done, meeting both of our quality and cost expectations. Work on the Flag Plaza will commence as soon as weather permits on completing the Flag Plaza.

Financial Management: Continuing into calendar year 2023 from the previous 2022 ending balance of \$331,749, our organization grew the ending balance to \$334,356. During 2023, the Memorial received in donations approximately \$104,000 and expensed approximately \$101,400, primarily for Flag Plaza construction costs. By serving as our general contractor, we have been able to save on costs while not jeopardizing quality nor design.

Looking ahead to 2024, we hope to accomplish the following:

- Dedicate the Flag Plaza on Memorial Day with the first ordered engraved pavers installed with the flag poles. We also will have some, but not all of the special features planned for the Flag Plaza installed by that date.
- Continue with the construction of the Flag Plaza after the Memorial Day dedication so that it will be fully completed by the end of the year.
- Continue our community outreach efforts to raise the funds needed to proceed with the construction of the Memorial, and to keep our community and supporters informed of our progress.
- Finalize the design of Phase II of the Memorial, the “Memorial Garden”. This will be adjacent to the Flag Plaza and will be incorporated into the land already under lease from the Fairfield Glade Community Club at Robin Hood Park.
- Convene a Town Hall Meeting at Fairfield Glade to discuss the design of the Memorial Garden with the community.
- Start the construction of the Memorial Garden by the end of 2024.

Conclusion: Since the Veterans and First Responders Memorial at Fairfield Glade was first established in 2018, it has been the mission to design, finance and build a memorial that will honor the men and women who have courageously served our nation, states and community through their dedication and commitment to our country. Undertaken primarily as a privately funded initiative, it has been challenging at times, but the Board of Directors and our supporters have never lost sight of how important it is to give these veterans and first responders, past and present, the recognition they deserve but do not expect. Once finished this Memorial in Cumberland County TN, promises to be a source of pride for our community and a place with special meaning to this group of men and women.

We are very close to reaching that goal. Stay with us.....

For more information, to order an engraved brick, or to make a donation, please visit us at:

www.vfrmemorial.com