

NH State Veterans Cemetery - April 2021 Update

Spring has mostly arrived at the NHSVC - snow and ice is gone, dormant grass is awakening, buds are on the trees. The staff is busy repairing ground damaged over the winter months, picking up the sticks and MILLIONS of pine cones from the windy early spring, adding fresh loam to graves, and setting the 140+ headstones received over the winter. As always, spring is a busy time full of anticipation for the beautiful flowers and warmer weather. We conducted 46 [interments in March](#). We increased the net number of "reservations" by 32, bringing our total to 10,298 plots reserved. Don't worry, we have plenty of room left. Based on current plans, there are over 46,000 burial plots remaining at the NHSVC. We have another seven expansion projects planned; the next occurring in 2025 or 2026. That said, we encourage veterans to complete an application now and put your Eligibility Certificate with other important documents. It is one less thing your family will have to worry about when the time comes.

The new Army Air Corps Monument is complete. Installation will take place after the Army Monument is rebuilt, which we continue to work on diligently. We will keep everyone informed on the plan to dedicate the AAC Monument via this letter, our [Facebook page](#), and the [NHSVC website](#). The new granite and steel brackets for the Army Monument will begin production this month. Our goal is to tear down the current monument in May and then rebuild by the end of June (it all depends on availability of parts and labor). Thanks to all who provide their time and talent in this repair. Donations for the [Army Monument repair](#) are still gratefully accepted.

I apologize for failing to mention Vietnam Veterans Day (March 29th) in my last update. We owe you an enormous debt and are grateful for your service! Friday, April 9th is National Former POW Recognition Day. There will not be a formal ceremony, but we plan to post a special message on the NHSVC Facebook page.

We have several upcoming events. During all events, we ask that volunteers respectfully maintain social distance and wear masks. Events are all posted on our [calendar](#).

- [Rolling Thunder Memorial Walkway Clean-up](#) - Sunday, April 18th @ 10:00 AM. Volunteers welcome. Recommend bringing work gloves, safety glasses, and rakes.
- *Place Flags for Memorial Day* - Thursday, May 27th @ 1:00 PM. Volunteers welcome.
- [Memorial Day Ceremony](#) - Sunday, May 30th @ 6:00 PM (see below for more information)
- [Retrieve Flags from Memorial Day](#) - Tuesday, June 1st @ 1:00 PM. Volunteers welcome.

Memorial Day Ceremony - the ceremony will be at **6:00 PM** and will be live-streamed on the NHSVC Facebook page. Guests are encouraged to attend virtually. The cemetery staff will NOT set-up seating for the event. If you choose to attend, please bring your own chair, wear a mask, and maintain social distance. We will end the ceremony by playing TAPS to begin the 100 Nights of Remembrance.

The NHSVC is hiring! We are looking for part-time help (25-30 hrs/week) during the warm weather months. The job will primarily consist of working outside on landscaping and grounds maintenance. We can be somewhat flexible on start/end date and schedule. It is a great chance to learn, be part of a team, and honor veterans and their families. You can apply [here](#).

As we approach the 25th Anniversary of the NHSVC in 2022, Mr. Richard Marsh is documenting the history and beauty of the NHSVC. I encourage you to visit [his website](#) to see hundreds of pictures and videos. The website is being updated with new information regularly.

If you or a group would be interested in donating time to help tend one of our 100 gardens, please contact me directly. Our staff does an excellent job, but adding a little extra TLC to a small garden will help make our cemetery even more beautiful!

I'd like to close by giving a special THANK YOU to the [NH Veterans Cemetery Association](#). The NHVCA board and advisory board donate countless hours of their time and talent to help with every aspect of the cemetery. They each have a passion for preserving our history and honoring our veterans and their families. The Memorial Walkway, 20 Points of History, and Veterans Heritage Learning Center are visible signs of their efforts. However, they do SO MUCH MORE that goes relatively unnoticed. They stop by on days off or weekends to donate their time and talent. They gather on weeknights to have meetings and collaborate on how to pull these ideas off and make this cemetery the best possible reflection of the pride our state and community has in our veterans and their families. The staff and I are fortunate to often receive compliments and positive feedback about our beautiful cemetery. With each compliment, we hope those who have donated their time, talent, and treasure know how grateful we are for their contribution. To all of you--past and present--thank you.

Have a joyful and healthy spring,