

Annual Report of the Veterans' Agent

It was another year filled with memories and stories of those men and women that have already, and those that continue to, bravely serve and fight for the freedoms we cherish here in the United States. We remember and honor each and every one of them for their courage, strength, and sacrifice.

Throughout this year so many wonderful individuals have worked hard to continue the renovation project at the Williamsburg Veterans' Memorial that David "Rabbitt" Haskell, a local Vietnam veteran who died in June 2006, began many years ago with his friend an fellow veteran Chandler "Butch" Smith. Rabbitt wanted to make sure no one who fought was ever forgotten and those who continue his work feel the same. Thanks to the continued hard work of Butch Smith, Nick Dines, the Highway Department, Jim LeBeau, the donation of stone and labor by Gary Warner, the many generous donations and countless others who I forget to name, we have plaques in an honored and beautiful place so that none will be forgotten.

The 2006 Memorial Day program was held on Sunday, May 28, 2006, with a focus on women who served in the military. The history and growth of their service and dedication tells a story of growth and change for our country. The event kicked off with a visit to all 5 cemeteries. Father Dariusz Waborski, Heather Jones, and Pastor Josh Davis conducted services. The annual parade march began in front of the Williamsburg Fire house with veterans, girl and boy scout troops and residents ending at the Williamsburg Veterans' Memorial. It was a wonderful tribute aided by all those in attendance.

The 2006 Veterans' Day service was held on Saturday, November 11, 2006 at the Williamsburg Veterans' Memorial Park. There was good attendance on a fairly warm day for the time of year, where many could hear the clear tones of taps played on the trumpet donated to the veterans by the Williamsburg branch of Florence Savings Bank. Veteran Russell Richardson had the honor of "playing" the trumpet in its debut as Daniel Warner held the flag.

The Town of Williamsburg aided two veterans during 2006 providing support as needed. With the constant change in federal and state laws, the Town of Williamsburg has contracted with the City of Northampton in order to best provide aid and support to our local veterans. As of January 2007, if you are a veteran, or family member of a veteran in need of support, aid or just have a question, you may contact the Northampton Veterans' Agent by calling (413) 587-1251.

The town will continue to appoint a Williamsburg Veterans' Agent as master of ceremonies.

Donations were collected for the VA in Leeds and the Old Soldiers' Home in Holyoke. I will continue to take collections of the "small necessities of life" during the warmer months. Please consider buying extra toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving items, soap, etc. (every day items) and donating them to our veterans.

As always, thank you to all that support my mission and special acknowledgement to my wonderful wife for her unwavering and continuous support.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry J. Warner
Williamsburg Veterans' Agent