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## New monuments for Memorial Day

◆ **Military heroes:** A Merchant Marine monument will be unveiled, and ground broken for a World War II monument.

By **DAN TUOHY**  
New Hampshire Union Leader

New monuments being celebrated and constructed in New Hampshire this Memorial Day will honor the diverse generations who have stood in defense of the nation.

They recognize today's military men and women, and they pay homage to yesterday's heroes, some of whom are finally getting their due.

Merchant Mariners of World War II, who received long-promised veteran status in the Reagan administration,

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will have a new monument dedicated May 30 at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery.

In Manchester, the city's Memorial Day Parade at 2 p.m. Monday finishes near Veterans Park, the scene of a 3:30 p.m. ground-breaking ceremony for a new World War II Memorial.

Other events across the state further stitch together the fabric of the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, their country.

In Hampstead, a new monument near Town Hall will be dedicated at 11 a.m. Monday in honor of residents who have joined the Armed Services

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COURTESY

The is an artist's rendering of the World War II Memorial to be built in Veterans Park in Manchester. A ground-breaking ceremony will be held Monday.

since the Vietnam War.

It is a busy week of remembrance.

Besides the Merchant Mariners monument dedication, which is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., the main Memorial Day ceremonies at the State Veterans Cemetery are at 11 a.m. A new reflection fountain honoring Blue Star and Gold Star mothers will be dedicated there at 12:30 p.m.

"It's great to have all the different pieces come together," said Michael W. Horne, director of the State Veterans Cemetery. "It's their cemetery. We value them and we value their ongoing contributions."

Criteria for Merchant Mariners is quite specific, including dates of service and ship.

Horne said there are now about a handful of Merchant Mariners interred at the cemetery.

Armand Dupont of Bedford, a Merchant Marine during World War II, commissioned the monument last year in honor of the mariners and their wartime service.

Diana Fletcher helped organize Saturday's ceremony as a tribute to her father, Otis Corthell of Manchester, who died last November.

As a Merchant Marine, Corthell helped deliver cargo during World War II, including to a Russian city above the Arctic Circle. In 1993, Russia presented him with a medal of honor for that service.

"It means a lot to me," she said. "My father was proud to be a Merchant Marine."