

## Take time to visit memorials dedicated to city's veterans

MANCHESTER — On Memorial Day, we will honor veterans who served our country, but in Manchester, Memorial Day 2009 is a special day for our World War II veterans.

Not only will they be honored in the 2 p.m. parade, but ground will finally be broken for a permanent World War II Memorial. It's been more 50 years since Manchester last had a memorial to all its sons and daughters who served in the armed forces during World War II. Be sure to come to Elm Street to watch the parade and then join us for the ground-breaking ceremony.

After the ceremony, you might want to travel around the Queen City to visit some of Manchester's monuments, squares, other sites dedicated to its World War II veterans. Here's a list of them:

**Bronstein Park**, on Beech and Hanover streets, honors Dr. Ben Richard Bronstein, the first U.S. Navy officer from New

### Monumental Generation

Hampshire to be killed in World War II.

**The Rene Gagnon Monument**, on the west side of Victory Park near Chestnut Street, honors Marine Corps Cpl. Rene Arthur Gagnon, one of the men appearing in the world famous Joe Rosenthal photograph of the flag raising on Iwo Jima.

**Lally Square**, Boynton, South Main and Woodbury streets, honors Francis P. Lally, U.S. Navy, who was killed on Nov. 24, 1943, aboard the carrier USS Liscombe Bay when it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine off the Gilbert Islands in the Central Pacific.

**Lewis Square**, Massabesic Street and Mammoth Road, honors Sgt. Robert W. Lewis, U.S. Army Air Force, who along with his entire bomber crew died in a crash at Lakeland, Fla., on Nov. 2, 1942.

**Metivier Square**, Union and Shasta streets, honors Staff Sgt. Roland A. Metivier, who was killed on June 20, 1943, over the North Atlantic aboard a B-17 Flying Fortress on a mission from Newfoundland to the British Isles. The wreckage of the B-17 and the bodies of the crew members were never found.

**Mullen Bridge**, Parker Street between Winter and West streets, honors Army Cpl. Bernard C. Mullen, a D-Day participant who died Aug. 24, 1944, in England of wounds he suffered in France on July 30, 1944, as a member of Company E, 175th Regiment, 29th Infantry Division.

**Raymond Square**, a plaque on the northwest side of the Queen City Bridge honors Roger Raymond, aviation cadet, U.S. Army Air Force. Raymond, 22, died Aug. 17, 1943, in a plane crash at Coleman Field in Northwest Plains, Texas. He was a five letter man at West High and attended St. Anselm College.

**Roux Square**, Amory and Montgomery streets, honors Staff Sgt. Joseph H.W. Roux of the U.S. Army Air Force, a radio-gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress. He was killed over Germany on Sept. 8, 1943. He was a senior at Central High School when he enlisted in the service in October 1940.

**Sheehan-Basquil Park**, Maple Street (the site of Hunt Pool), honors Capt. Jeremiah Aiden Sheehan and PFC James H. Basquil. Sheehan was a school teacher before enlisting. He was killed on Aug. 9, 1944, during a German tank attack in Normandy, France.

Basquil was a member of the 104th Infantry Regiment, 26th Yankee Division, when he was killed by a mortar round on Nov. 12, 1944, in the Metz-Nancy area of France.

**St. Germain Square**, Coolidge and Amory streets, honors Pvt. Maurice St. Germain, U.S. Army who was killed at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Mau-

rice attended Hevey School and West High School. He was entering his seventh year in the Army when he was killed.

**Arthur M. St. Pierre Square**, Maple and South Willow streets, honors Staff Sgt. Arthur Michael St. Pierre, U.S. Army Air Force. St. Pierre was a tailgunner aboard a B-24 Liberator that crashed in Germany in August 1944. He was taken prisoner by the Germans and died of his wounds/injuries several days later on Aug. 20.

**Sullivan Square**, Massabesic and Spruce streets honors Staff Sgt. John J. Sullivan. He had attended St. Agnes Institute, St. Joseph's High School, Lowell Textile School and graduated from the New England School of Embalming. He and Arthur Connelly founded the Sullivan and Connelly Funeral Home. He served five terms in the New Hampshire Legislature as its youngest member. Sullivan did not die in battle, but was among the 492 people killed in the infa-

mous Boston Coconut Grove fire on Nov. 29, 1942.

The "Manchester's Honored Veterans" booklet was the source of much of the above information. There are still a few copies left of this collector's item. While they last, you can have one for a donation of \$100 to the Manchester World War II Memorial. Just give me a call at 391-7920.

Donations are still needed to complete the memorial. Send your check to the Manchester World War II Memorial, One City Hall Plaza, Manchester, NH 03101 or donate online at [www.manchesternhwwiimemorial.com](http://www.manchesternhwwiimemorial.com); click on the "donate" tab.

— Gene Mackie

### DEADLINE

The deadline to add, change or delete names to the Manchester World War II Memorial is May 25. For information, please call Mike Lopez at 669-8058.