

# **VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK OF NORTHEAST MICHIGAN - PENTAGON SERVICE MONUMENT**

The Pentagon Service Monument is the centerpiece structure for the Veterans Memorial Park of Northeast Michigan located in Oscoda. The Monument is an opportunity to publicly and respectfully recognize those individuals who have honorably served in any of the five United States Armed Services. The official Groundbreaking Ceremony for the structure is planned for Memorial Day, May 25, 2009 and construction will commence shortly afterward.

In order to preserve the accuracy and integrity of the Monument, all personalized commemorative block requests will be reviewed and approved by a Certification Committee made up of VMPNEM Board Members. Simply stated, the VMPNEM cannot allow a false representation of service to our nation by an individual who did not honorably serve. Any additional personalized wording will also be reviewed for appropriateness.

Some kind of evidence of service is required for approval. It does not have to be a DD 214, although that is the simplest 1 page proof of service. If one is not available, some kind of supporting documentation must be provided for review by the committee. Proof of service might consist of official or unofficial documents such as period dated correspondence, newspaper clippings, pictures etc. If no such items are available, a written 'Letter of Certification' attesting to honorable service may be accepted.

The cost of each engraved commemorative block is \$250.00. The attached request form must be filled out completely including purchaser contact information. Proof/certification of service can be provided separately if not available at the time of purchase.

Updates on the Groundbreaking Ceremony and progress of construction of the Pentagon Service Monument will appear on our website: [www.vmpnem.org](http://www.vmpnem.org)

For uniformity, 'Military' style font will be used on the blocks. The service members name will always be at the top and in 1" letters, and can be 2 lines in the case of longer names or the addition of a nickname. The personalized wording will be in 5/8" letters with a maximum of 25 characters per line including spacing and punctuation and up to 6 lines of characters.

Please take enough time to make sure spelling is correct and words are accurate and will appear as you want them. Make sure you provide good contact information so we may contact you for any additional information or clarification of what you have provided.



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## **Additional Information**

At least four engraved display/sample blocks have been prepared and they are available for view at the Visitors Center, with pictures on the website. The Memorial Blocks are large sized; 8" X 16" with large fonts that are very easy to read. As of 6 July, 2008, the final material choice for the blocks has not been made, although it will be very similar to the sample display blocks in color and quality.

The Board of Directors of the Veterans Memorial Park of Northeast Michigan is currently performing due diligence to determine the exact material that will be used. This includes test engraving of potential materials for fine quality lettering and evaluation of very long term durability. One thing is for certain; the final material choice will be of very high quality and have excellent engraving and durability characteristics.

All funds collected for the Pentagon Service Monument are held in a reserve account which is completely separate from general development/operating fund accounts for the Park and they exist in 2 categories:

1. Monument Memorial Block Sales
2. Monument Construction Fund Contributions

Any substantial cash donations and in-kind contributions of goods or services to the monument will be recognized by engraved acknowledgement on an adjacent but separate structure from the Pentagon Monument.

Once the requested engraving has been completed by the professional, it cannot be 'changed'. However, if there is room on the original block, additional wording can be added at a later date, IE; years of service, birth and death date, additional awards/recognition, etc. The engraving fee for adding new wording/characters to the Original block will be \$55.00, regardless of the number of characters. .

If desired, a block may be requested and paid for in installments over a period of up to 6 months, with a down payment of at least \$50.00 and monthly payments thereafter until the balance is paid. Just note the amount of your down payment on the request form and ask for the installment payment option.

At this time it may be difficult to visualize the size and scope of the Pentagon Service Monument from the Master Plan and 3-D Model of the Park. Briefly, each side of the concrete pentagon shaped base will measure about 100 feet. Each of the five double sided walls will be about 35 feet in length, and open at each end. A star shaped structure will be in the middle of the monument with a themed sculpture. Detailed drawings of the Monument will be available in early 2009.