

**FORM C - OBJECT**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

13-19-9	Tyngsboro		952
Assessor's number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
Tyngsboro			
<b>Town</b>	Chelmsford		

**Place** (neighborhood or village)  
 North Chelmsford

**Address or Location** Vinal Square Common

**Name** Vietnam War Memorial

**Ownership**  Public  Private

**Type of Object** (check one):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> statue            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> monument |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bust              | <input type="checkbox"/> milestone           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> group composition | <input type="checkbox"/> marker              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> religious shrine  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boundary marker   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)   |  |

**Date of Construction** dedicated Nov. 19, 2006

**Source** Chelmsford Independent: 11/16/2006  
 Dedication program

**Designer/Sculptor**  
 The committee & Luz Granite Corp.

**Materials** black African granite

**Alterations** (with dates) none

**Condition** excellent

**Moved**  no  yes **Date**

**Acreage** 10,881 sq. ft.

**Setting** See continuation sheet

**Recorded by** Jane B. Drury

**Organization** for Chelmsford Historical Commission

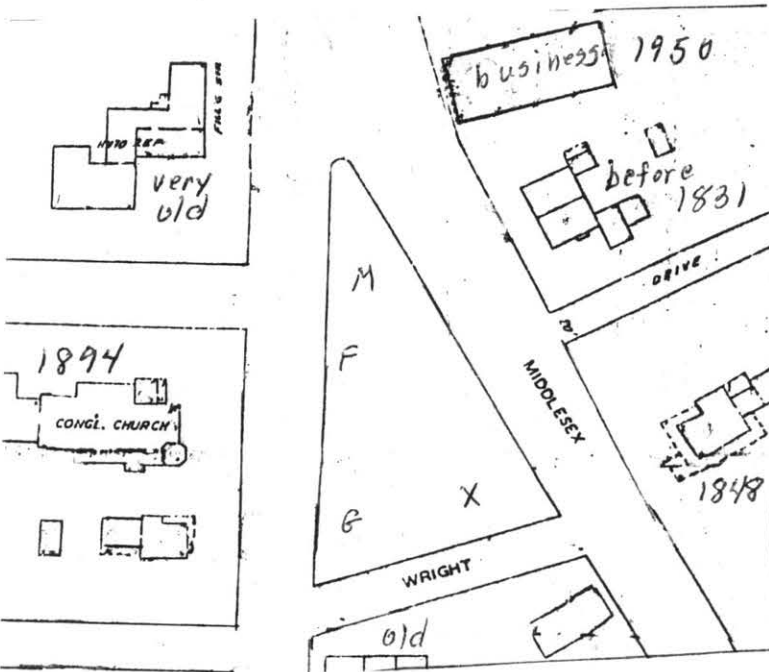
**Date** (month/year) February 2007



MA\_Chelmsord\_Vinal\_Square\_IMG\_4612 CD CHC\_04 6/10/2007 F

**Sketch Map**

Draw a map showing the object's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between object and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried object. Indicate north.



Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

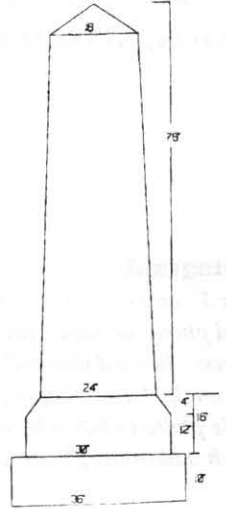
F = flagpole B = gazebo M = W.W.I monument inv. # 901

## OBJECT FORM

### DESIGN ASSESSMENT *see continuation sheet*

*Describe the design features of the object, and evaluate in terms of other similar types of objects within the community.*

Made of black African granite and standing than 8 feet tall including its base, this obelisk displays the names of the 4 men from Chelmsford who died in the Vietnam War. The obelisk shape, a miniature version of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. , was chosen because "it was a symbol of honor dating back to the 'beginning of time.' We didn't want it to look like a gravestone." Three of the sides include the "four men's names, emblems from each of the Armed Forces services and the fourth stanza of Laurence Binyon's poem, "For the Fallen."



### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

*Explain the history of the object, and how it relates to the development of the community*

Originally planned to honor just one man who died in the Vietnam War, Kenneth Hughes, it was decided to include all who died in the war. George Dixon and Jack Emerson approached Veterans Agent Regina Jackson, who formed a committee of five. This committee "started planning the design and a fundraising drive to pay for it." \$20,000 was required.

At the dedication of the monument, held at 1 P.M. on November 19, 2006 a "tribute to each of the four men was read by a Chelmsford resident who also served in Vietnam. John Francis Bettencourt was born on Dec. 18, 1946, grew up near Chelmsford Center and attended Chelmsford High School, where he was a member of the Class of 1965. "He was killed in action serving with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Hua Nghia about one month before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.... Kenneth Rockwell Hughes attended Westford Academy but switched to CHS, where he earned his diploma.... He was killed in a plane crash in Bien Hoa on March 28, 1969. He was 22 years old. James Doughty worked at DeMoula's [store] while growing up in town. His tour of duty started on June 18, 1969. He was killed in action in Quang Tin on Aug. 28, 1969. He was 20 years old. Peter Blazonis grew up in East Chelmsford with two brothers and a sister..... He arrived in Vietnam on April 25, 1969. he was killed in combat on June 18, 1969, in Thua Thien." Another memorial stone has been placed in Peter Blazonis' honor; see inventory #943. Two granite benches were placed nearby.

**ENTIRE INSCRIPTION** *(if applicable):* *see continuation sheet*

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Chelmsford Independent: May 18, Nov. 16, 2006  
Regina Jackson, Veterans Agent  
Vietnam Memorial Dedication program, November 19, 2006  
Design plans held by the Veterans' Agent's Office  
Chelmsford Assessors' Office  
Lowell Sun: March 20, 2006; November 20, 2006  
Chelmsford Independent: Thursday, May 18, 2006; Nov. 16, 2006; November 23, 2006

Recommended for listing in National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
CHELMSFORD

Property Address  
VINAL SQUARE

Area(s) Form No.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

FRONT

REAR

RIGHT SIDE



THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD.  
AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:  
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM,  
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN  
AND IN THE MORNING  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

IN  
HONOR  
OF THOSE  
FROM  
CHELMSFORD  
WHO SERVED  
☆☆☆☆

IN  
MEMORY OF THOSE  
WHO FELL  
☆☆☆☆  
THE VIETNAM WAR  
1959 ~ 1975  
(CIRCULAR DESIGN)  
VIETNAM

JOHN F. BETTENCOURT  
18 DEC. 1946 ~ 16 NOV. 1967

U.S. ARMY



KENNETH R. HUGHES  
9 JULY 1946 ~ 28 MAR. 1969

U.S. ARMY



PETER V. BLAZONIS  
9 SEPT. 1945 ~ 18 JUNE 1969

U.S. ARMY



JAMES A. DOUGHTY  
11 OCT. 1948 ~ AUG. 28, 1969  
U.S. ARMY



LEFT SIDE



# Chelmsford aiming to honor Vietnam vets

By HIROKO SATO  
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — On Memorial Day, the town may have its first monument to honor local soldiers who died in the Vietnam War — if enough money is raised for the project by then.

The town is looking to erect the Chelmsford Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It will be likely located at the Vinal Square Common in North Chelmsford.

The project began when the late Sewer Commission Chairman Jack Emerson and resident George Dixon Jr., approached the town's former Veterans Agent and Human-Services Director Martin Waish years ago with the idea to honor Kenneth Rockwell Hughes, who died in the war at the age of 22, according to Regina Jackson, assistant for the Department of Veterans Services.

The men later agreed the memorial should be for all veteran soldiers from the war.

"We decided that it's time for Chelmsford to honor all the Vietnam veterans, espe-

cially those who were killed," Jackson said. "It's a good tribute from the community."

The four Chelmsford men to be honored are Hughes, John Francis Bettencourt, Peter Vincent Blazonis and James Alden Doughty. Except for Hughes, all of the men died at the age of 20. Bettencourt was killed in 1967, the others in 1969.

Jackson said she is certain that three of the men are Chelmsford High School graduates.

The town is hoping to have the monument erected before Memorial Day and is asking community members for donations. Town officials have yet to determine the exact cost of the project but believe it may be a few thousand dollars, according to Jackson.

Those who have information about the soldiers to be honored or their surviving relatives are encouraged to call the Veterans Office at (978) 250-5238. Donations should be made to Chelmsford Vietnam Veterans Memorial, c/o Chelmsford Veterans' Services, 1A North Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824.



# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town  
CHELMSFORD

Property Address  
VINAL SQ. COMMON

Area(s) Form No.

## SETTING

The memorial monument sits on a triangular shaped common, on 1 side of which is busy Princeton Street., Rt. 3A or Middlesex Street on another, and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> side is cross street Wright Street. It is surrounded on all three sides by mostly old buildings.



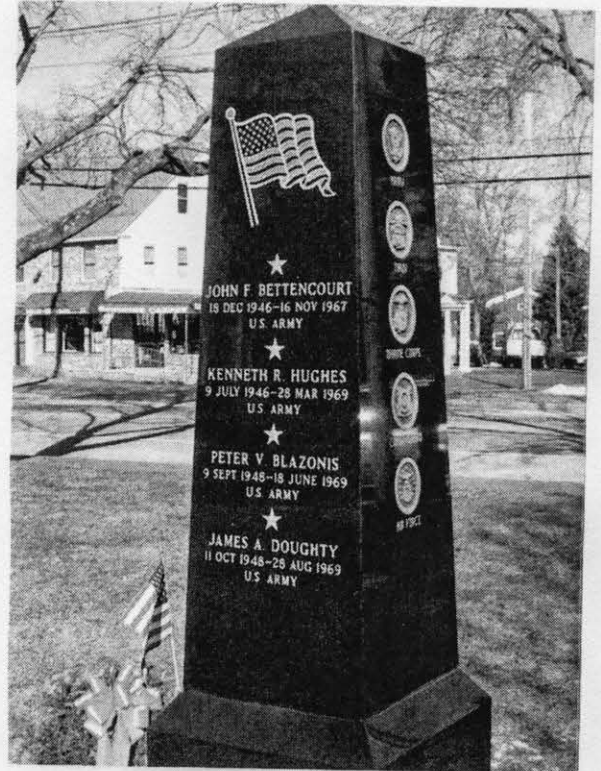
# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: CHELMSFORD  
 Property Address: VINAL SQ. COMMON  
 Area(s):   
 Form No.:

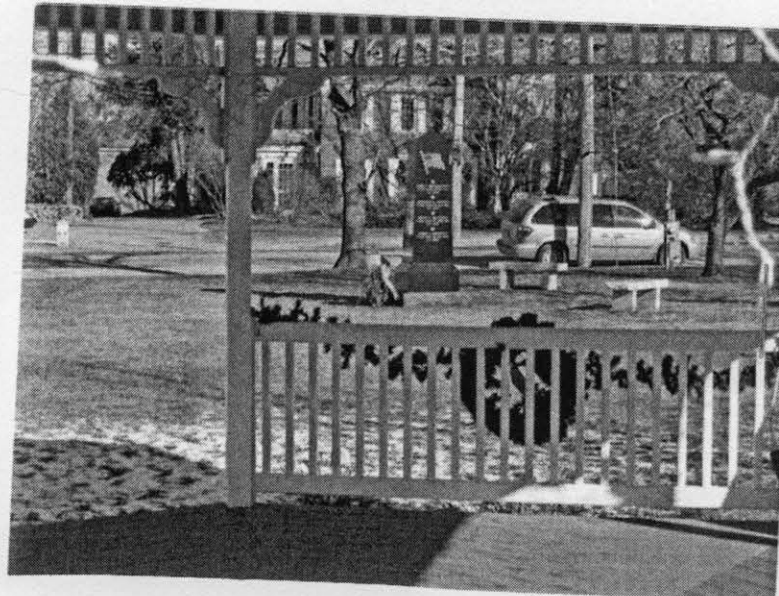
952

Dedication Ceremony  
 November 19, 2006



The Committee (L - R)

David Regina Robert Robert John George James  
 McAllister Jackson Mackey Casper Harrington Dixon Pearson



From The gazebo  
 Toward Middlesex St.

# Vietnam memorial planned

**By John Ciampa**

Staff Writer

Though plans to erect a memorial at Vinal Square in honor of Vietnam War veterans are close at hand, a final determination of the monument's layout will not be made until after Memorial Day.

According to Chelmsford Veterans Agent Regina Jackson, three proposals for the project have been discussed by a committee assembled to approve the final design. Jack-

son said two more meetings — one at the end of May and one in June — are likely needed before a decision is made.

Jackson said the monument will likely be a black stone, about 6 to 7 feet in height and inscribed with the names of the four Chelmsford veterans who died in the conflict — John Francis Bettencourt, Peter Vincent Blazonis, James Alden Doughty and Kenneth Rockwell Hughes.

“We want to honor those

four individuals,” said Jackson, “but we also want the memorial to stand for all our war veterans.”

Though the exact location is unclear, Jackson said it would likely be built on the Vinal Square green, adjacent to Middlesex Street and directly across from the common's gazebo.

The \$20,000 cost of the monument was raised through private gifts.

*John Ciampa can be reached at [jciampa@cnc.com](mailto:jciampa@cnc.com)*



# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Chelmsford Vinal Square

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

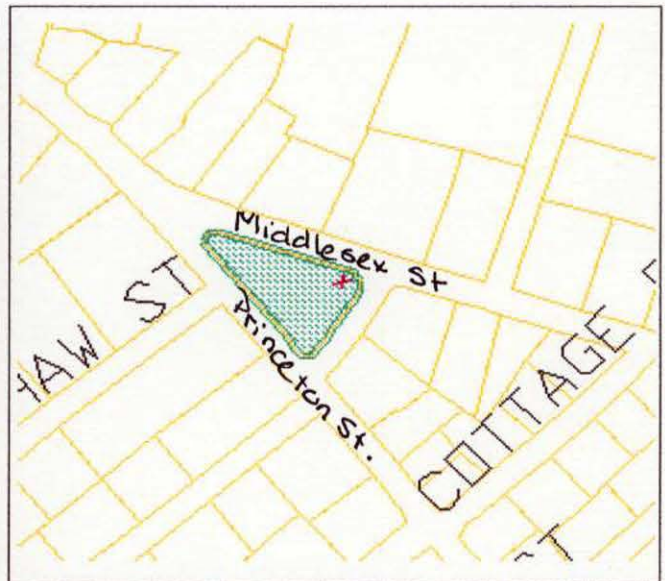
Area(s) Form No.

	952
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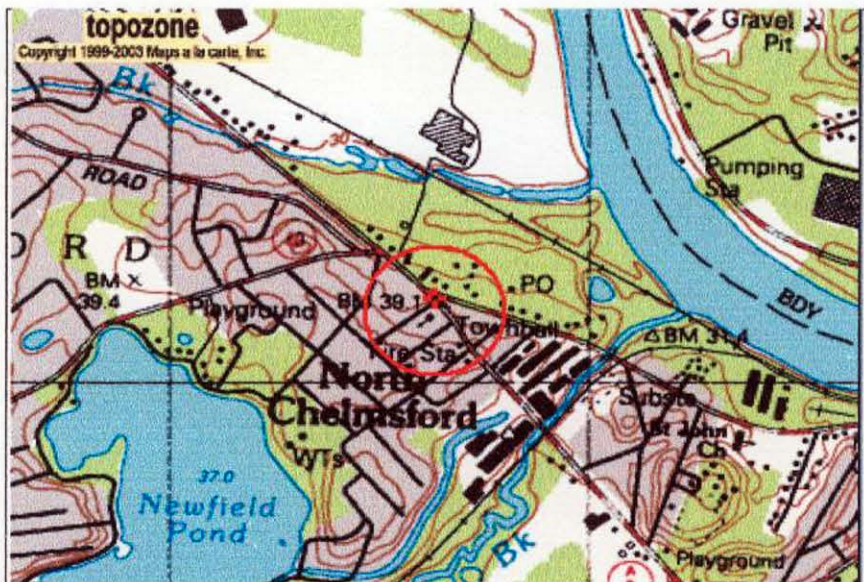
## Locational Information



Vietnam War Memorial viewed from local.live.com



Vinal Square Common, Assessor's Map



Topozone excerpt from Lowell USGS quadrangle.

Decimal coordinates as provided by Topozone: 42°38'16" N 71°22'48" W



Lowell Sun, March 20, 2006

CHELMSFORD –On Memorial Day, the town may have its first monument to honor local soldiers who died in the Vietnam War-if enough money is raised for the project by then. The town is looking to erect the Chelmsford Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It will be likely located at the Vinal Square Common in North Chelmsford. The project began when the late Sewer Commission Chairman Jack Emerson and resident George Dixon Jr. approached the town's former Veterans Agent and Human Services Director Martin Walsh years ago with the idea to honor Kenneth Rockwell Hughes, who died in the war at the age of 22, according to Regina Jackson, assistant for the Department of Veterans Services. The men later agreed the memorial should be for all veteran soldiers from the war. "We decided that it's time for Chelmsford to honor all the Vietnam veterans, especially those who were killed," Jackson said. "It's a good tribute from the community." The four Chelmsford men to be honored are Hughes, John Francis Bettencourt, Peter Vincent Blazonis and James Alden Doughty. Except for Hughes, all of the men died at the age of 20. Bettencourt was killed in 1967, the others in 1969. Jackson said she is certain that three of the men are Chelmsford High School graduates. The town is hoping to have the monument erected before Memorial Day and is asking community members for donations. Town officials have yet to determine the exact cost of the project but believe it may be a few thousand dollars, according to Jackson. Those who have information about the soldiers to be honored or their surviving relatives are encouraged to call the Veterans Office at (978) 250-5238. Donations should be made to Chelmsford Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Chelmsford Veterans' Services, 1 North Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824.

CHELMSFORD INDEPENDENT, Thursday, May 18, 2006

## **VIETNAM MEMORIAL PLANNED**

By John Ciampa, Staff Writer

Though plans to erect a memorial at Vinal Square in honor of Vietnam War veterans are close at hand, a final determination of the monument's layout will not be made until after Memorial Day.

According to Chelmsford Veterans Agent Regina Jackson, three proposals have been discussed by a committee assembled to approve the final design. Jackson said two more meetings – one at the end of May and one in June – are likely needed before a decision is made.

Jackson said the monument will likely be a black stone, about 6 to 7 feet in height and inscribed with the names of the four Chelmsford veterans who died in the conflict – John Francis Bettencourt, Peter Vincent Blazonis, James Alden Doughty and Kenneth Rockwell Hughes.

"We want to honor those four individuals," said Jackson, "but we also want the memorial to stand for all our war veterans."

Though the exact location is unclear, Jackson said it would likely be built on the Vinal Square green, adjacent to Middlesex Street and directly across from the common's gazebo.

The \$20,000 cost of the monument was raised through private gifts.

Lowell Sun, July 27, 2006

## Chelmsford seeking residents' help to raise \$20G for Vietnam memorial

By Hiroko Sato, Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD – The town is asking residents to help raise \$20,000 to erect its first memorial in the community to honor local soldiers who died in the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee is gearing up to construct a 6½-foot tall monument on the Vinal Square Common in North Chelmsford. The idea for the project surfaced years ago when late Sewer Commission Chairman Jack Emerson and resident George Dixon Jr., approached the town's former Veterans Agent and Human-Services Director Martin Walsh with the idea to honor Kenneth Rockwell Hughes, who died in the war at the age of 22, according to current Veterans Agent Regina Jackson.

The men later agreed the memorial should be for all veteran soldiers from the war, and the town now knows there are four fallen soldiers from Chelmsford. They are Hughes, John Francis Bettencourt, Peter Vincent Blazonis and James Alden Doughty. Except for Hughes, all of the men died age the age of 20. Bettencourt was killed in 1967, the others in 1969. Their names will be etched on one of the four sides of the granite monument.

The front of the monument will bear the inscription: "In honor of those from Chelmsford who served. In memory of those who fell. The Vietnam War 1959-1975."

Jackson said it will cost about \$20,000 to have the monument constructed by LUZ Granite Corp., which was selected through a bid. The town so far had raised \$3,645. The committee hopes the monument will be ready for dedication sometime in the fall, likely in late October.

Donations should be sent to: Chelmsford Vietnam Veterans memorial, c/o Chelmsford Veterans' Services, Community Center (Old Town Hall), 1A North Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824. For more information, call the Veterans Office at (978) 250-5238.

## LOCAL

# Chelmsford seeking residents' help to raise \$20G for Vietnam memorial

By HIROKO SATO  
Sun Staff

**CHELMSFORD** — The town is asking residents to help raise \$20,000 to erect its first memorial in the community to honor local soldiers who died in the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee is gearing up to construct a 6 1/2-foot tall monument on the Vinal Square Common in North Chelmsford. The idea for the project surfaced years ago when late Sewer Commission Chairman Jack Emerson and resident George Dixon Jr., approached the town's former Veterans Agent and Human-Services Director Martin Walsh with the idea to honor Kenneth Rockwell Hughes, who died in the war at the age of 22, according to current Veterans Agent Regina Jackson.

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from Chelmsford. They are Hughes, John Francis Bettencourt, Peter Vincent Blazonis and James Alden Doughty. Except for Hughes, all of the men died at the age of 20. Bettencourt was killed in 1967, the others in 1969. Their names will be etched on one of the four sides of the granite monument.

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## New memorial to the men left behind

by Kevin Zimmerman

On his first day back in the U.S. after a year in Vietnam, Dave McAllister walked into Demoula's on Chelmsford Street and panicked.

He went to the end of the first row of items but couldn't take another step because it didn't seem safe.

"I didn't want to walk down the aisle," he said. "It was like being in the line of fire. You couldn't go right or left."

The panic attack passed and McAllister settled back into his life but the memories of 12 months in country and the friends who weren't lucky enough to come home are never far away.

This Sunday, McAllister joins other Chelmsford veterans of the Vietnam War to honor the four men who didn't return with the dedication of the Chelmsford Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Vinal Square.

Made of black African granite and standing more than 8 feet tall, the obelisk will display the four names – John Francis Bettencourt, Kenneth Rockwell Hughes, Peter Vincent Blazonis and James Alden Doughty – as a permanent tribute to those who answered their country's call and paid the ultimate price.

It was George Dixon and Jack Emerson who approached the Veterans Agent Regina Jackson about creating a memorial to honor Hughes. Quickly, they decided it would be best to include all of the men who died in the war.

Jackson formed a committee, which includes McAllister, Bob Casper, John Harrington, Bob Mackay and Director of Public Work's Jim Pearson, and started planning the design for the memorial and a fundraising drive to pay for it.

Casper said that after visiting the area cemeteries and veterans parks, the committee knew how it didn't want the Chelmsford memorial to look.

"We knew it was going to be black granite, the same as the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.," said Casper. "And we didn't want it to look like a gravestone."

They settled on an obelisk – a miniature version of the Washington Monument – because it was a symbol of honor dating back to the "beginning of time." The design would also have four sides which will provide space to display the four men's names, emblems from each of the Armed Forces Services and the fourth stanza of Laurence Binyon's poem, "For the Fallen": "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old, Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

Sunday's ceremony will include a tribute to each of the four men read by a Chelmsford resident who also served in Vietnam.

Casper will talk about John Bettencourt.

Bettencourt was born on Dec. 18, 1946, and grew up near Chelmsford Center with his two brothers, Robert and Gary, and two sisters, Sharon and Nancy.

He attended Chelmsford High School where he was a member of the Class of 1965.

In the CHS yearbook, it says Bettencourt "liked basketball, nice cars and he liked to share with his friends."

He was killed in action with serving with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Hua Nghia about one month before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Harrington plans to talk about his friend Kenny Hughes.

Hughes attended Westford Academy but switched to CHS where he earned his diploma.

"He was a well-liked kid," said Jackson. "People have said that he was a real gentleman and had a nice way about him."

Next to his serious picture in the yearbook, appears the words, "Kenny – Fore! – glows with humor – how's lunch? – all over (everything)."

Hughes was killed in a plane crash in Bien Hoa on March 28, 1969. He was 22 years old.

MacKay will honor James Doughty.

Doughty worked at Demoula's while growing up in town. His tour of duty started on June 18, 1969. He was killed in action in Quang Tin on Aug. 28, 1969. He was 20 years old.

McAllister will talk about Peter Blazonis at the ceremony.

Blazonis grew up on Bigelow Street in East Chelmsford with two brothers and a sister.

"His buddies remember him fondly as a great friend who was always fun to be around and was the one in the group who would offer you something rather than take it for himself.

"Peter was always surrounded by friends as 'never a wise guy, just a cool kid.'"

He arrived in Vietnam on April 25, 1969. He was killed in combat on June 18, 1969, in Thua Thien.

"It's very nice and long overdue," said McAllister. "I've been in the closet about being a veteran for 35 years. But I was asked to help with this and this is a cause I feel strongly about."



Lowell Sun, November 20, 2006

## **'Nothing reduces the magnitude of their sacrifice'**

Chelmsford dedicates Vietnam Memorial

By HIROKO SATO, Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD – The bullets always came flying at him from behind bushes just yards away, but David McAllister rarely saw those who fired them.

When he saw his enemies, they didn't know he was there. Only jungle leaves hid him.

Thirteen of the 40 men he first served with during the Vietnam War weren't as lucky as he was. In the first six months, they were dead. And they are a big part of the reason McAllister still thinks about the war many times each day.

"It's been 37 years since coming home. It's important to me," McAllister said of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the first memorial in Chelmsford dedicated solely to Vietnam veterans.

The memorial was dedicated yesterday in Vinal Square, North Chelmsford.

Local veterans and town officials came together to honor those who risked their lives in the Vietnam War in yesterday's dedication ceremony. The 6½-foot-tall granite monument bears the names of four fallen soldiers: John Francis Bettencourt, Kenneth Rockwell Hughes, Peter Vincent Blazonis and James Alden Doughty.

All of them graduated from Chelmsford High School and served in the Army. Hughes was 22 when he died; the others were 20.

The project started several years ago when late Sewer Commission Chairman Jack Emerson and resident George Dixon Jr. approached the town's former Veterans Agent and Human-Services Director Martin Walsh with the idea to honor Hughes.

Hughes was Dixon's classmate from Chelmsford High School, and Emerson was a good friend of Hughes' brother.

The three men later agreed that the memorial should be for all veteran soldiers from the war. The town then formed a committee made up of Dixon, current Veterans Agent Regina Jackson, Public Works Director James Pearson, and local Vietnam veterans McAllister, John Harrington, Robert Casper and Robert Mackey. During the past several months, the committee raised nearly \$20,000, enough to erect the monument and buy two benches to go with it on the Vinal Square Common.

The four veterans on the committee took turns introducing each of the fallen soldiers as their family members listened. They all had charming personalities that put people around them at ease.

Selectman Bill Dalton, reading a proclamation from the town at the ceremony, said they were "brave young men" whose actions "symbolized American spirit."

Though the Vietnam War divided the nation, "nothing reduces the magnitude of their sacrifice," said Thomas Kelley, state secretary of veterans services and the guest speaker for the ceremony.

Kelley, who served in Vietnam, is a recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Harrington said Vietnam soldiers were not welcome back after the war.

"It took 30 years to change that," he said. "It took years for the wounds to heal."

He said that the monument should remind people the sacrifice the fallen soldiers made.

McAllister said the phrases etched on a side of the memorial sum up his feeling for his dead friends: "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

CHELMSFORD INDEPENDENT, November 23, 2006

## For Kenny, Peter, John & James

Vietnam Veterans memorial dedicated to four who died in war

By James Fuccione, Correspondent

Among the large crowd of people, the speeches, the pledge of allegiance, taps and other patriotic rituals that accompanied the dedication of the new Vietnam Veteran's memorial in Vinal Square, a woman quietly placed four red roses at the base of the black granite obelisk on the side where four young men from Chelmsford are memorialized for their sacrifice.

"He used to kid his mother, "If I don't make it back, send me some roses," said Nancy Hughes of Vietnam veteran Kenneth Rockwell Hughes, one of the four names on the monument. "So I thought I'd bring one for all of them."

More than 100 people made up of veterans from Vietnam and other wars attended the dedication ceremony last Sunday afternoon. All saw and were impressed by the fruits of labor by the Vietnam Veterans memorial Committee.

"It's beautiful," said Sharon Gagnon of Nashua, N.H., a relative of one of the memorialized veterans. "People were impressed by that and the ceremony. It was very nice."

According to VVMC Member Bob Mackey, more than \$19,500 in private donations was raised to erect the 8-foot tall, four-sided African black granite monument. Back in April, George Dixon and Jack Emerson pitched the idea of a memorial to Vietnam veterans and the committee was born. Born the ceremony and memorial were a fitting remembrance of Hughes, Peter Vincent Blazonis, John Francis Bettencourt and James Alden Doughty, all of whom were casualties of a long and controversial war. At 22 years of age, Hughes was the oldest of the four and his three brothers in arms were 20 when they died.

On the other sides of the obelisk are the emblems of the U.S. military services in the order that they were established, according to Mackey. Also on the statue is the fourth stanza of Laurence Binyon's poem, "For the Fallen." Two stone benches were placed next to the memorial.

A member of the VVMC each spoke of one of the fallen young men and highlighted their heroism, courage and the sacrifice they made for others.

Blazonis was in the prestigious 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, also known as the Screaming Eagles. The World War II version of which was involved in the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France as portrayed in the film series "Band of Brothers."

"The motto of the battalion that Peter served with is 'Ready to Move, Ready to Fight,'" said VVMC Member David McAllister. "For the bravery and courage that Peter Blazonis showed in combat, I would like to add, 'Where Brave Men Fight and Die .... There Fight I.'"

The ceremony saw the Chelmsford Board of selectmen, who issued a proclamation for the event, Chief of Police James F. Murphy, who led the crowd through the pledge of allegiance and the Rev. Stephen Burkett from the North Chelmsford Congregational Church who read an opening and closing prayer.

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty," stated Burkett from the first verses of Psalm 91. "I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"

VVMC Committee Member Robert Casper welcomed the crowd and introduced some of those who were on hand, including other committee members, selectmen, State Rep. Cory Atkins, D-Concord, and Rep. Thomas A. Golden, Jr. D-Lowell, and Secretary of Veteran's Services and Medal of Honor Recipient Thomas Kelley.

"Nothing reduces the magnitude of their sacrifice," said Kelley. "This memorial will remind us forever the special bond of soldier to country and soldier to soldier."

Kelley and President of the Merrimack Valley Vietnam Veterans Robert Cronin placed a wreath at one side of the memorial, stepped back and saluted before three shots were fired into the air and taps was played and then echoed by Lt. Col. Sam Poulten who served in the current conflict ongoing in Iraq.

Poulten explained that taps dated back to the American Civil War when a father had fought for the Union and his son for the Confederacy. When his son was killed, according to Poulten, the family was denied a proper military burial, but in his son's pocket, the father found the composition that came to be known as taps, which was played at that funeral and countless other military burials and ceremonies since.

"The notes are played and the tradition is, it's echoed back for the fact that we'll never forget," Poulten added. "As long as there is one of us left alive, we will remember."

# New memorial to the men left behind

**By Kevin Zimmerman**

Staff Writer

On his first full day back in the U.S. after a year in Vietnam, Dave McAllister walked into Demoula's on Chelmsford Street and panicked.

He went to the end of the first row of items but couldn't take another step because it didn't seem safe.

"I didn't want to walk down the aisle," he said. "It was like being in a line of fire. You couldn't go right or left."

The panic attack passed and McAllister settled back into his life but the memories of 12 months in country and the friends who weren't lucky enough to come home are never far away.

This Sunday, McAllister joins other

Chelmsford veterans of the Vietnam War to honor the four young men who didn't return with the dedication of the Chelmsford Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Vinal Square.

Made of black African granite and standing more than 8-feet tall, the obelisk will display the four names — John Francis

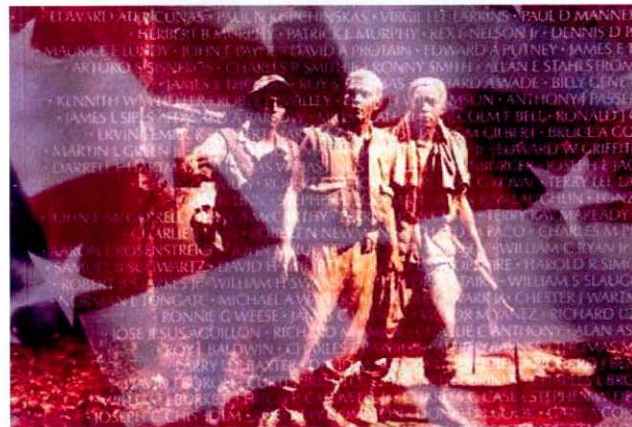
**Vietnam, Page 13**

"God Bless America.  
 Land that I Love  
 Stand Beside her, and guide her  
 Thru the night with a light from above.  
 From the mountains to the prairies,  
 to the oceans, white with foam  
 God Bless America  
 My home sweet home."

Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
Committee

George Dixon	
Regina Jackson	USAF
James Pearson	
Robert Casper	Vietnam 1 <sup>st</sup> Inf Div 1968-69 1 <sup>st</sup> Cav Div 1970
Robert Mackey	Vietnam 20th Eng Bde 1969
John Harrington	Vietnam 1 <sup>st</sup> Marine Div 1969
David McAllister	Vietnam 1 <sup>st</sup> Inf Div 1969

*Vietnam Veterans*  
*Memorial*  
*Dedication*  
*November 19, 2006*



*Honoring All Who Served*



# Vietnam War Memorial dedication

## Vietnam, from Page 1

Bettencourt, Kenneth Rockwell Hughes, Peter Vincent Blazonis and James Alden Doughty — as a permanent tribute to those who answered their country's call and paid the ultimate price.

It was George Dixon and Jack Emerson who approached Veterans Agent Regina Jackson about creating a memorial to honor Hughes. Quickly, they decided it would be best to include all of the men who died in the war.

Jackson formed a committee, which includes McAllister, Bob Casper, John Harrington, Bob MacKay and Director of Public Works' Jim Pearson, and started planning the design for the memorial and a fundraising drive to pay for it.

Casper said that after visiting area cemeteries and veterans parks, the committee knew how it didn't want the Chelmsford memorial to look.

"We knew it was going to be black granite, the same as the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.," said Casper. "And we didn't want

it to look like a gravestone."

They settled on an obelisk — a miniature version of the Washington Monument — because it was a symbol of honor dating back to the "beginning of time." The design would also have four sides which will provide space to display the four men's names, emblems from each of the Armed Forces services and the fourth stanza of Laurence Binyon's poem, "For the Fallen": "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old, Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

Sunday's ceremony will include a tribute to each of the four men read by a Chelmsford resident who also served in Vietnam.

Casper will talk about John Bettencourt.

Bettencourt was born on Dec. 18, 1946, and grew up near Chelmsford Center with his two brothers, Robert and Gary, and two sisters, Sharon and Nancy.

He attended Chelmsford High School where he was a member of the Class of 1965.

In the CHS yearbook, it says Bettencourt "liked basketball, nice cars and that he liked to share with his friends."

He was killed in action with serving with the 25th Infantry Division in Hua Nghia about one month before his 21st birthday.

Harrington plans to talk about his friend Kenny Hughes.

Hughes attended Westford Academy but switched to CHS where he earned his diploma.

"He was a well-liked kid," said Jackson. "People have said that he was a real gentleman and had a nice way about him."

Next to his serious picture in the yearbook, appears the words, "Kenny — Fore! — glows with humor — how's lunch? — all over (everything)."

Hughes was killed in a plane crash in Bien Hoa on March 28, 1969. He was 22 years old.

MacKay will honor James Doughty.

Doughty worked at Demoula's while growing up in town. His tour of duty started on June 18, 1969. He was killed

in action in Quang Tin on Aug. 28, 1969. He was 20 years old.

McAllister will talk about Peter Blazonis at the ceremony.

Blazonis grew up on Bigelow Street in East Chelmsford with two brothers and a sister.

"His buddies remember him fondly as a great friend who was always fun to be around and was the one in the group who would offer you something rather than take it for himself.

"Peter was always surrounded by friends who remember him as 'never a wise guy, just a cool kid.'"

He arrived in Vietnam on April 25, 1969. He was killed in combat on June 18, 1969, in Thua Thien.

"It's very nice and long overdue," said McAllister. "I've been in the closet about being a veteran for 35 years. But I was asked to help with this and this is a cause I feel strongly about."

*The Chelmsford Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Vinal Square will be officially dedicated on Sunday, Nov. 19 at 1 p.m. The ceremony takes place rain or shine.*

*Independent Nov. 16, 2006*



## *The Pledge of Allegiance*

*I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag  
of the United States of America  
and to the Republic for which it stands,  
one Nation Under God, Indivisible,  
with Liberty and Justice for All*

<b>Welcome by:</b>	Robert Casper
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Rev. Stephen Burkett
<b>National Anthem:</b>	Ted Godfroy USN
<b>Pledge of Allegiance:</b>	Robert White 3 <sup>rd</sup> Marine Div 1965 Natl. Vice Cmdt, MCL
<b>Introduction of Town, State Officials &amp; Guest</b>	Robert Casper
<b>Tribute to the Fallen:</b>	Committee
<b>Guest Speaker:</b>	William Dalton Town Selectman  Thomas Kelley Sect. of Veterans Services Medal of Honor Recipient Vietnam
<b>Placing of the Wreath:</b>	Robert Cronin 1 <sup>st</sup> Cav Div 1967 William Dalton 3 <sup>rd</sup> Marine Div 67-68
<b>Salute to Honor our Heroes:</b>	Chelmsford Police Honor Guard
<b>Taps:</b>	Robert White
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Rev. Stephen Burkett
<b>God Bless America:</b>	Ted Godfroy



# 'Nothing reduces the magnitude of their sacrifice'

## Chelmsford dedicates Vietnam Memorial

By HIROKO SATO  
Sun Staff

The Lowell Sun Nov 20, 2006

CHELMSFORD — The bullets always came flying at him from behind bushes just yards away, but David McAllister rarely saw those who fired them.

When he saw his enemies, they didn't know he was there. Only jungle leaves hid him.

Thirteen of the 40 men he first served with during the Vietnam War weren't as lucky as he was. In the first six months, they were dead. And they are a big part of the reason McAllister still thinks about the war many times each day.

"It's been 37 years since coming home. It's important to me," McAllister said of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the first memorial in Chelmsford dedicated solely to Vietnam veterans.

The memorial was dedicated yesterday in Vinal Square, North Chelmsford.

Local veterans and town officials came together to honor those who risked their lives in the Vietnam War in yesterday's dedication ceremony. The 6 1/2-foot-tall granite monument bears the names of four local fallen soldiers: John Francis Bettencourt, Kenneth Rockwell Hughes, Peter Vincent Blazonis and James Alden Doughty.

Please see **MEMORIAL/20**



Chelmsford residents dedicate the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Vinal Square.

SUN/ANNA BETTENCOURT





At left, George Dixon Jr., one of the early supporters of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, above, says the Pledge of Allegiance at yesterday's dedication of the Memorial at Vinal Square.

SUN PHOTOS/ANNA BETTECOURT

# Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated in Chelmsford

**MEMORIAL/**From Page 1

All of them graduated from Chelmsford High School and served in the Army. Hughes was 22 when he died; the others were 20.

The project started several years ago when late Sewer Commission Chairman Jack Emerson and resident George Dixon Jr. approached the town's former Veterans Agent and Human-Services Director Martin Walsh with the idea to honor Hughes.

Hughes was Dixon's classmate from Chelmsford High School, and Emerson was a good friend of Hughes' brother.

The three men later agreed that the memorial should be for all veteran soldiers from the war. The town then formed a committee made up of Dixon, current Veterans Agent Regina Jackson, Public Works Director James Pearson, and local Vietnam veterans McAllister, John Hurrington, Robert Casper and Robert Mackey. During the past several months, the committee raised nearly \$20,000, enough to erect the monument and buy two benches to go with it on the Vinal Square Common.

The four veterans on the committee took turns introducing each of the fallen sol-



Vietnam veteran David McAllister speaks of fellow veterans who didn't make it home. "It's important to me," he said of the memorial, the first of its kind in Chelmsford.

diers as their family members listened. They all had charming personalities that put people around them at ease.

Selectman Bill Dalton, reading a proclamation from the town at the ceremony, said they were "brave young men" whose actions "symbolized American spirit."

Though the Vietnam War divided the nation, "nothing reduces the magnitude of

their sacrifice," said Thomas Kelley, state secretary of veterans services and the guest speaker for the ceremony.

Kelley, who served in Vietnam, is a recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Hurrington said Vietnam soldiers were not welcome back after the war.

"It took 30 years to change that," he said. "It took years for the wounds to heal."

He said the monument should remind people the sacrifice the fallen soldiers made.

McAllister said the phrases etched on a side of the memorial sum up his feeling for his dead friends: "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

Hiroko Sato's e-mail address is [hsato@lowellsun.com](mailto:hsato@lowellsun.com).



Amy Kirkent, 18, and her mother, Nancy, both of Chelmsford try to hold back tears at yesterday's dedication.



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75¢ • VOL. 28, No. 40 • CHELMSFORD, MASS. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2006



Staff photo by Ann Ringwood

Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services Thomas Kelley, left; Robert Cronin, president of the Merrimack Valley Vietnam Veterans, center; and Selectman Bill Dalton, who served as a Marine in Vietnam, place a wreath at the town's new Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Vinal Square Sunday afternoon.

## For Kenny, Peter, John & James

### Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated to four who died in war

By James Fuccione  
Correspondent

Among the large crowd of people, the speeches, the pledge of allegiance, taps and other patriotic rituals that accompanied the dedication of the new Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Vinal Square, a woman quietly placed four red roses at the base of the black granite obelisk on the side where four young men from Chelmsford are memorialized for their sacrifice.

"He used to kid his mother, 'If I don't make it back, send me some roses,'" said Nancy Hughes of Vietnam veteran Kenneth Rockwell Hughes, one of four names

on the monument. "So I thought I'd bring one for all of them."

More than 100 people made up of family, friends and a large contingent of veterans from Vietnam and other wars attended the dedication ceremony last Sunday afternoon. All saw and were impressed by the fruits of labor by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee.

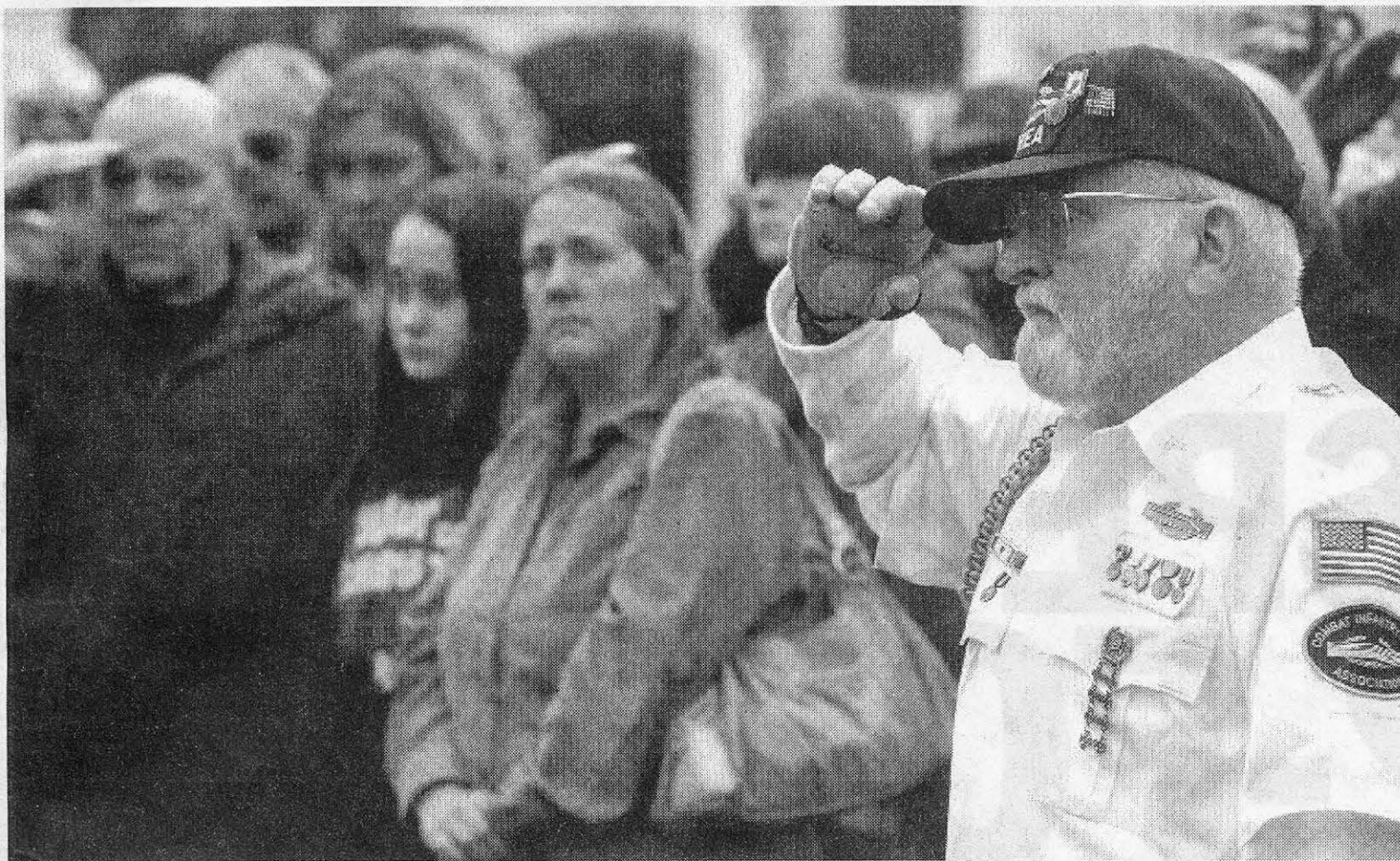
"It's beautiful," said Sharon Gagnon of Nashua, N.H., a relative of one of the memorialized veterans. "People were impressed by that and the ceremony. It was very nice."

According to VVMC Member Bob Mackey, more than \$19,500 in private do-

nations was raised to erect the 8-foot tall, four-sided African black granite monument. Back in April, George Dixon and Jack Emerson pitched the idea of a memorial to Vietnam veterans and the committee was born. Both the ceremony and memorial were a fitting remembrance of Hughes, Peter Vincent Blazonis, John Francis Bettencourt and James Alden Doughty, all of whom were casualties of a long and controversial war. At 22 years of age, Hughes was the oldest of the four and his three brothers in arms were 20 when they died.

On the other sides of the obelisk are  
**Vietnam, Page 17**





Staff photos by Ann Ringwood

Veteran Arthur Wessels salutes during Sunday's dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial.

## Vietnam Memorial dedicated

**Vietnam, from Page 1**  
the emblems of the U.S. military services in the order that they were established, according to Mackey. Also on the statue is the fourth stanza of Laurence Binyon's poem, "For the Fallen." Two stone benches were also placed next to the memorial.

A member of the VVMC each spoke of one of the fallen young men and highlighted their heroism, courage and the sacrifice they made for others.

Blazonis was in the prestigious 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, also known as the Screaming Eagles. The World War II version of which was involved in the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France as portrayed in the film series "Band of Brothers."

"The motto of the battalion that Peter served with is 'Ready to Move, Ready to Fight,'" said VVMC Member David McAllister. "For the bravery and courage that Peter Blazonis showed in combat, I would like to add, 'Where Brave Men Fight and Die...There Fight I.'"

The ceremony saw the Chelmsford Board of Selectmen, who issued a proclamation for the event, Chief of Police James F. Murphy, who led the crowd through the pledge of allegiance and the Rev. Stephen Burkett from the North Chelmsford Congregational Church who read an opening and closing prayer.

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest

in the shadow of the Almighty," stated Burkett from the first verses of Psalm 91. "I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"

VVMC Committee Member Robert Casper welcomed the crowd and introduced some of those who were on hand, including other committee members, selectmen, State Rep. Cory Atkins, D-Concord, and Rep. Thomas A. Golden, Jr., D-Lowell, and Secretary of Veteran's Services and Medal of Honor Recipient Thomas Kelley.

"Nothing reduces the magnitude of their sacrifice," said Kelley. "This memorial will remind us forever the special bond of soldier to country and soldier to soldier."

Kelley and President of the Merrimack Valley Vietnam Veterans Robert Cronin placed a wreath at one side of the memorial, stepped back and saluted before three shots were fired into the air and taps was played and then echoed by Lt. Col. Sam Poulten who served in the current conflict ongoing in Iraq.

Poulten explained that taps dated back to the American Civil War when a father had fought for the Union and his son for the Confederacy. When his son was killed, according to Poulten, the family was denied a proper military burial, but in his son's pocket, the father found the composition that came to be known as taps,



Gerri Pizzano listens as the story of her brother, Peter Blazonis, is read by Dave McAllister at Sunday's dedication.

which was played at that funeral and countless other military burials and ceremonies since.

"The notes are played and

the tradition is, its echoed back for the fact that we'll never forget," Poulten added. "As long as there is one of us left alive, we will remember."





LUZ GRANITE  
ARTISAN  
& DESIGN

LITTLE ROCK





David McAllister, Regina Jackson, Robert Mackey, Robert Casper, John Harrington, George Dixon, James Pearson





JOHN F. BETTENCOURT  
 18 DEC 1946~16 NOV 1967  
 U.S. ARMY



KENNETH R. HUGHES  
 9 JULY 1946~28 MAR 1969  
 U.S. ARMY



PETER V. BLAZONIS  
 9 SEPT 1948~18 JUNE 1969  
 U.S. ARMY



JAMES A. DOUGHTY  
 11 OCT 1948~28 AUG 1969  
 U.S. ARMY



ARMY



NAVY



MARINE CORPS



COAST GUARD



AIR FORCE







JOHN F. BETTENCOURT  
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11 OCT 1948~28 AUG 1969  
U.S. ARMY





MEMORY OF THOSE  
WHO FELL



THE VIETNAM WAR  
1959 - 1975







THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD  
AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD.  
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM.  
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN  
AND IN THE MORNING  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.









Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Vinal Square

1/21/2007 F. Merriam