

Kitsap County Veterans Memorials and Museums

UPDATED 5 March 2022

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I would like to cordially invite you to view the Memorials and Museums to Veterans throughout Kitsap County. Over the past 12 years I have led groups in refurbishing and cleaning up a lot of these sites. When I started this project in 2010 I did not realize there were so many memorials and museums in our county, the current count is over 100, (This is counting all Boardwalk plaques as 1 even though there are over 300).

The newest memorials are the renovation of the VFW Plaza in West Bremerton in 2020 and in 2022 the renaming of the Downtown Bremerton Post Office the John Henry Turpin Building after GMC John Henry (Dick) Turpin, one of the First African American Chiefs and Hero for saving crewmembers of the USS Maine and USS Bennington after explosions severely damaged them. He also worked in the Shipyard as a Master Rigger and Undersea Welder and Master Diver.

As we find or honor Memorials they are added to this listing so you will be able to go and see them. My Journey starts at the farthest one at Point No Point and proceeds throughout the county all the way south to the city of Manchester.

We will start in the northern area of our County:

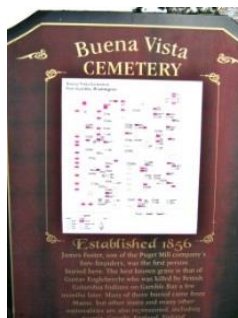
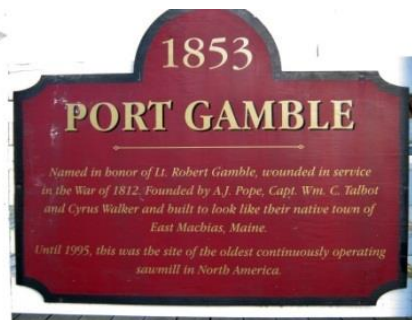
North Kitsap County **Hansville**

The most northern memorial is at Kitsap County Point No Point Lighthouse & Park near Hansville. Originally staffed by the US Coast Guard the lighthouse is now a museum and the home of the US Lighthouse Society.



Port Gamble

Port Gamble is named after Lt. Robert Gamble wounded in the War of 1812. A memorial in the cemetery here lists Gustave Englebrecht of the USS Massachusetts being killed in the Washington Indian War in Port Gamble. The cemetery is located at NE Walker and Pacific.



Suquamish

A few miles south in the center of Suquamish you will find the Suquamish Veterans Memorial. It was dedicated on Veteran's Day, November 11 2010.



Bainbridge Island

Bainbridge Island is named after Commodore William Bainbridge. On Bainbridge Island you will find four items of interest as You follow our tribute to Veterans.

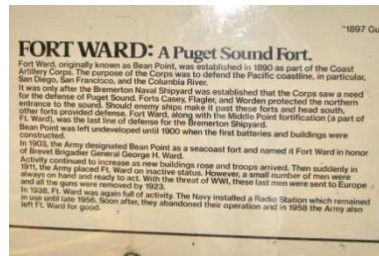
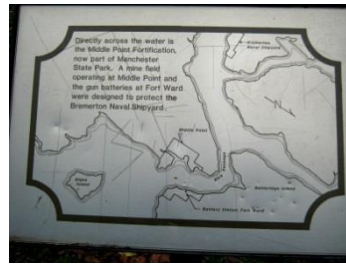
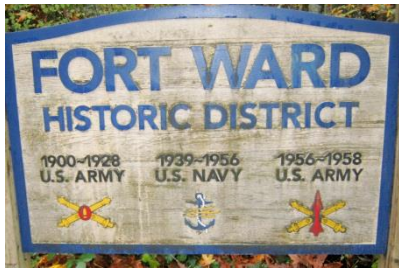
At Bainbridge Memorial Field located at Bainbridge High School you will find a Veterans Memorial, which is at 9330 NE High School Road.



Next on the island is a memorial to one of the most controversial events to happen in the US during World War II. Located at Pritchard Park, 4192 Eagle Harbor Drive, The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial is dedicated to all of the Bainbridge citizens who were forcibly sent to internment camps due to their Japanese descent.



Then on the island's southern end at 2241 Pleasant Beach Drive NE are the remnants of Fort Ward, an Army fort from the late 1800s and then a Navy installation during WWII. You will also find the remains of Battle Point, the listening station used during WWII. Most of the grounds have been turned into Fort Ward Park, with the remainder in private ownership.



Poulsbo

On the Poulsbo waterfront in Liberty Bay Park is a WWI & WWII Memorial that used to be in front of The National Guard Armory, which was torn down. Next to it is a large anchor and plaque honoring all Veterans that have served.



Keyport

Heading south on Hwy 3, take the Keyport exit. To your right is the main gate to Naval Base Kitsap/Bangor Submarine base where eight of our nation's submarines are homeported. But don't turn right unless you have a pass! Turn left and head west towards Keyport and you will arrive at the Naval Undersea Museum. (Admission is free.) Explore the museum and learn about life under the sea, torpedoes and underwater exploration. Just across the street as you leave you will see an anchor at Saltwater Park. I am still researching this one from 1942.



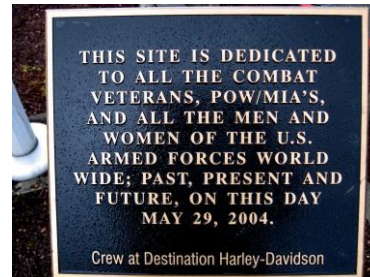
Central Kitsap County

Silverdale

Next down the highway to the south is the unincorporated area called Silverdale. Just off Hwy 3, enter on Silverdale Way and go through the retail/commercial area. At the last stop light where Silverdale Way becomes two lanes turn left onto Byron. At the end of the road in Waterfront Park is the Kitsap County Veterans Memorial dedicated in 2004 and a WWI Memorial Obelisk.



On the outskirts of Silverdale you will find a memorial to the Veterans at the Legend Harley Davidson Dealership located at 9625 Provost Road.



Fairgrounds area

Blue Star Highway Memorial Marker is just before you turn to go to the Kitsap County Fairgrounds at 7601 Tracyton Blvd. It was placed in 1988 to honor our Veterans by the Garden Club and is adjacent to the J.A. & Anna F. Smith Park. Unfortunately, this Memorial has been stolen.



On the County Fairgrounds, 1200 Fairgrounds Road, you will find the Korean War Memorial as you turn into the Presidents Hall parking area. There is also an Eagle Scout project here that honors all branches of Service Men & Women



Bremerton

Leaving the Korean War Memorial, head east on Fairgrounds Road to HWY 303 and turn right. Proceed south for about 2.5 miles, turn left onto Sylvan Way and head up the hill. At the Kitsap County library on the right side of the road is a Navy League Memorial to Mr. Irving Allen, who was a past president of Puget Sound Naval Bases Assn. and Navy League President. He was a strong supporter of the US Navy and a city florist since 1936.



On the corner of Sylvan Way and Olympus Blvd is Bataan Park in honor of the survivors of the Bataan Death March.



About one mile east on Sylvan Way you will arrive at Illahee Park. At the park entrance there is a set of 5"/51 guns off of the USS West Virginia, (BB-48). There are two plaques, one Honors all who have served this country; the other plaque is to Mr. Earle Henry Harkins, shipyard worker who was the first caretaker of the park. A state park pass is required to drive your vehicle into park. If you just want to view the Memorial, park on an adjacent street and walk in.



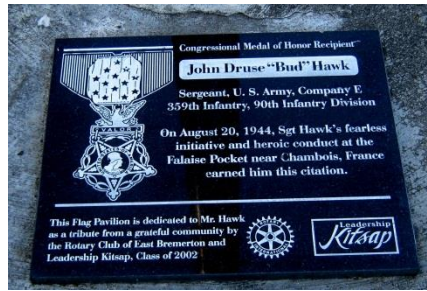
Leaving the park, take Sylvan Way back to Illahee Dr. Turn right and going down Illahee Dr, you will see the newest Memorial signs in Honor of recently departed Medal of Honor Recipient SGT John D. (Bud) Hawk, designating the section near Brownsville Elementary as "John (Bud) Hawk Memorial DR".



After driving past the school where "Bud" was Teacher & Principal turn around and go back to Sylvan Way. Turn right on Sylvan Way to HWY 303 (Wheaton Way), turn left and go to the next traffic light. Turn left (don't go over the bridge) onto Sheridan Ave and then take an immediate right, to Hal's Corner. There are two sets of 40MM Bofors guns from the USS West Virginia and an anchor from the USS Bremerton. The park is in honor of Hal Fischler founding father of the Navy League in Bremerton.



After you view Hal's Corner continue down Old Wheaton Way (not over the bridge) about eight blocks and turn right onto Lebo Blvd. Passing under the bridge, a couple of blocks down you will see Lent's Landing Park. During World War II, a Barge-type ferry would pull up to the dock to shuttle residents of Sheridan Park housing to the shipyard. Lent Landing was named for the family of Ernest B. Lent. It is in this pocket park that a flag pavilion and plaque have been dedicated to Medal of Honor recipient, John Druse (Bud) Hawk, who the Drive is named for that you visited earlier.



Proceed back on Lebo Blvd, just before the bridge, turn left onto Juniper and follow the signs that take you across the bridge. Immediately get in the left lane, and take the first left at the end of the bridge onto 17th street. Go two blocks and turn right onto Park Ave. At 1400 Park Avenue is Evergreen Rotary Park. In the park next to the boat launch is a World War I Memorial with 40MM saluting guns (Mark V & Mark 11) off of USS West Virginia and bronze plaques listing Bremerton service members who lost their lives in the Great War.



Drive around the park heading east and you will find the newest Memorial, the Kitsap 9-11 Memorial



Return to Park Avenue and head south to 11th Street. Turn right on 11th; go two blocks and up the small hill. Just past the crest of the hill, turn right onto Ohio Street. Proceed past the next stop sign at 15th and Ohio, on your left is Bremerton High School Memorial Stadium dedicated to all who have served; and it is also the entrance to the "Path of Freedom Memorial". This memorial chronicles all Kitsap County citizens who have lost their lives in combat during World War I through contemporary times.



From the Path of Freedom, reverse your direction on Ohio and turn right on 13th Street. Go about eight blocks on 13th and turn right onto Naval Ave and the entrance to Ivy Green Cemetery is on the left.

Ivy Green Cemetery, Located here is a replica of the Tomb of the Unknown with Remembrance Ribbon path and reflecting wall. Also interred here is Medal of Honor recipient and Civil War veteran, QM John Nibbe. Many Veterans are buried throughout this cemetery; group plots include veterans from the Spanish-American War, Grand Army of the Republic (Union Army, Civil War) and those originally listed as unknowns for 45 years from the USS Saratoga when they were listed on a plaque that rest over the tomb. Also in the corner of the cemetery is a Submariner's marker in honor of the Departed Submariners. The plots that adjoin it are set aside for submariners.



Leaving Ivy Green on Naval Avenue, proceed south to 11th and turn right, go to Kitsap Way and head west at National Avenue turn Left go up the hill and you will see the sign for the VFW Post 239. It is named Admiral Robert E. Coontz Post. He was the second CNO. He sailed with the Great White Fleet and was the Commandant of PSNS and the local Naval District during WW1 at this Post is the Plaque Honoring Medal of Honor Recipient from WWII Dexter Kerstetter. This plaza was renovated as an Eagle Scout Project and the MOH plaque was redone along with a miniature replica of the 9-11 Memorial.



Leaving the Post, turn right back to Kitsap Way. Turn Left and head west pass under Hwy 3 and on the left side of the road are 2 cemeteries; the first is Forest Lawn where many Veterans are laid to rest. A Fleet Reserve Association Anchor and flagpole are in this cemetery.



Up Kitsap Way on your left is Miller-Woodlawn Memorial Park. The Mast and Yardarm from USS Bremerton is located near the funeral chapel. Numerous Veterans are laid to rest here. This is also Medal Of Honor Recipient John D. (Bud) Hawk's final resting place.



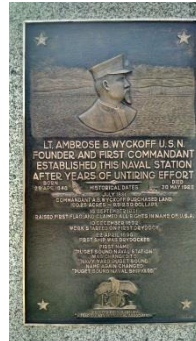
Just past the cemetery on the right side at 6002 Kitsap Way is NAD Soroptimist Park. Turn into Austin Drive here you will find an F-8 Crusader of the Viet Nam War Era. The F-8H Crusader was last flown with VF-111 in 1972. It was brought to Bremerton on the USS Constellation and was donated to the City of Bremerton on 19 June 1975. This plane was restored and preserved by the USS Ronald Reagan, USS John C. Stennis, Lowes Hardware and the Parks Dept. in the summers of 2012 and 2013 and 2015.



As you leave the park head farther down Austin Drive until you see the sign and newest Elementary School dedicated on the 20th of October in honor of 2 great Washingtonians, Medal of Honor Recipient and School Principal John D. "Bud" Hawk and Senator Scoop Jackson. The school is named John D. "Bud" Hawk Elementary School at Jackson Park.



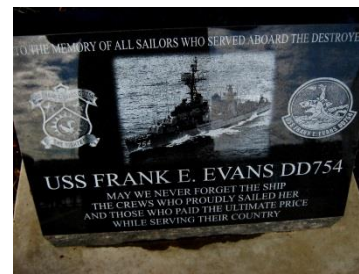
After you leave the school, head back past the Jet and turn down the hill on Kitsap Way it will turn into 6th Street. Take 6th until you arrive on Pacific, at the corner of 6th & Pacific is the Post office named in 2020 after GMC John Henry Turpin. Along Pacific between Burwell and 1st Street on the way to the Washington State Ferry Terminal you will find Harborside Fountain Park, which includes the Puget Sound Navy Museum, (Admission is free) and the sail from USS Parche. Adjacent to the park is the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Memorial Plaza dedicated to shipyard workers and shipyard founder, Lt. Ambrose Wyckoff and has the Bow of the USS South Carolina and the War Record of the Shipyard.



On the other side of the ferry terminal is the Louis B. Mentor Boardwalk. It was placed in honor of the PSNS 100 birthday in 1991. Over 300 Memorial plaques are along the Boardwalk from Ships, Businesses and Shipyard Shops.



The boardwalk includes the memorial for the USS Franklin CV-13, and our newest Memorial from the crew of the USS Frank E. Evans in honor of their 74 shipmates that were killed in a collision at sea. The names of 2 sailors from Washington are on the back. Memorial Plaques from ships and shipyard codes line the sides of the boardwalk.



As you walk to the end you will arrive at the USS Turner Joy DD-951 a US Naval Destroyer from the Vietnam Era. It is open to visitors with paid admission, free to sailors in uniform. After touring the ship head out to the Breakwater end of the marina, here stands the Lone Sailor Statue.





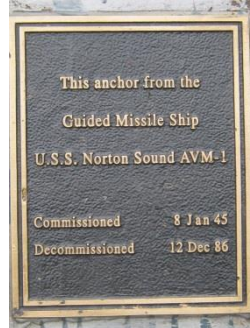
Just above the Boardwalk in between the 2 condominiums you will find a Memorial to Captain Bradley Johanson, former CO of USS Stennis CVN-74.



Before you leave the Boardwalk, look across to Manette over the roof tops and you will see a 8 foot by 10 foot American flag flying over the Veteran's Memorial at the New Life Church.



As you leave Bremerton heading to Port Orchard, on the left side of the road is 2 Vietnam era aircraft carriers. USS Independence, and USS Kitty Hawk. Just before you get on Highway 3 on the right is View Point Park. It is at the end of McCall Blvd. It was developed by the Westside Improvement Club in 1976. The Anchor from the USS Norton Sound is the centerpiece overlooking Puget Sound Nava Shipyard and Dyes Inlet.



South Kitsap County

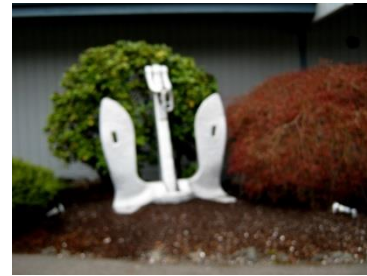
Gorst

As you slowdown in Gorst to 40 MPH, look to your left at the large flag pole at Peninsula Auto Group, It was installed as an Eagle Scout project in Honor of Veterans and there is a plaque dedicating it.



Port Orchard

As you drive into Port Orchard, you will pass by the Port Orchard Yacht Club. There you will see a set of Anchors. They were the anchors off the USS Bellerophon (ARL31), a US Navy Repair Ship that saw service in the Pacific after WWII. She was eventually decommissioned in 1947 and placed in reserve at Bremerton until 1980. Her anchors are on loan to them from the US Naval Historical and Heritage Command.



At the corner in front of the Port Orchard City Hall is a flagpole in the center of the traffic triangle in front of City Hall. It was installed on May 30 1933 by Bob & Genie Gardner along with Bill Ralf and Vince Harms of Post No. 30 and their Ladies Auxiliary. Across the street is a MK 48 Torpedo next to the boat launch.



At the flag pole, turn left and head up the steep hill. At the top you will come to the Kitsap County Courthouse. The Courthouse foyer wall has a memorial with plaques honoring individual Kitsap County citizens who died during WWII. In the Administration building you will find a Memorial to the "Run to Tahoma" It is honoring Veterans that have been taken from Kitsap County to the Veterans Cemetery in Tahoma by Kent WA



Leaving the Court House head South to Sidney Ave. Turn Left on Sydney until you see Dwight Ave. Turn right on Dwight and you will see the community Playground named after Hospital Corpsman First Class Michael Clayton. He was assigned to the Submarine USS Lewis & Clark. From 1971-1972 the submarine was in the shipyard at Bremerton and the crew volunteered to clean up the area of brush and made a playground. While they were doing it, Petty Officer Clayton was killed in a traffic accident and in his honor, the City named it the Clayton Park and Playground.



Leaving the park, drive back down Sidney and turn Right on Bay Street. In Downtown Port Orchard at 825 Bay Street is the Veterans Living History Museum. It is one man's collection of artifacts from all Wars and conflicts we have fought in. He also has a display of many of the County's Medal of Honor recipients. Admission is free.



A block away from the museum, located in the park along the waterfront is the Veterans Wall. Dedicated on July 4, 2012, the wall has the names of living and deceased veterans.



As you head south on Bay Street go up the hill past KFC to the roundabout on the left side you will see the Sunset Lane Cemetery. The VFW and American Legion sponsored the Memorials at this Cemetery.



Retsil

Just outside of Port Orchard, At 985 Retsil Road SE, is the Kitsap County Veterans Memorial Park with a marker honoring South Kitsap residents who Lost their lives in Vietnam and another set of 40 MM Bofors guns. This set of guns is from the USS Pyro AE-1 from WWII.



A short distance away at 1141 Beach Drive, Retsil, is the Washington Veterans Home dedicated to helping our elderly and disabled veterans. In addition to the veterans home, on the 31 acre campus are located two obelisks honoring veterans from Civil War and Spanish-American wars, the Chapel is in a 1914 building, another Blue Star Highway Plaque, transitional housing for homeless veterans, and a Washington St Veteran Service Center which helps all veterans.





The Veterans Home Cemetery is to the east on both sides of 900 Olney Dr. Army Medal of Honor recipient Gotfred Jensen from the Spanish-American War is buried here. There are three obelisks located in this cemetery honoring veterans of the Spanish American War, the Civil War and for Veterans from all Wars.



Farther southeast toward Manchester you will pass Manchester State Park. This park was originally the Fort Middle Point, The Mitchell Gun Battery, torpedo & Mining station.



In Manchester is another Veterans memorial on the corner of Colchester and Main honoring WWII and Vietnam Veterans. Across the street is a flagpole in honor of CDR Joseph Robert Bow.



Going back toward Port Orchard you will pass by the Sedgwick Cemetery and Sedgwick Junior High School on Sedgwick RD. They are named after General John Sedgwick, Civil War Veteran. The Grand Army of the Republic Auxillary named the Cemetery in 1909. Road was named shortly after and when the Junior High was built, it was also named for him.



In addition to these Memorials is the Blue Star and Gold Star Banner Program in Kingston, Poulsbo, Seabeck, Silverdale, Bremerton, Belfair and Port Orchard in honor of our troops that are now serving or those that have given their all for our country. Log on to their website to read more on this Memorial Program and to see which ones are in your Neighborhood



So you can see that we need to honor our Veterans by preserving the past and thanking those that are still serving on active duty, as we remember and honor our Patriots as well.