



June 11, 2011

## **400 FLAGS**



**BILL WEST / Star Beacon ASHTABULA COUNTY Young Marine Courtney Taylor, 13, of Jefferson, prepares an American flag for placement with hundreds of 3 by 5-foot American flags for the Field of Honor display at the Greenlawn Memory Gardens at 3140 E. Center St. in North Kingsville.**

**<http://starbeacon.com/local/x1943988637/400-FLAGS>**

**'Healing Field' flaps again in N. Kingsville**

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**NORTH KINGSVILLE —**

Rosemarie Noce has a favorite flag among the 400 banners fluttering at the second annual Field of Honor display: the one that bears the likeness of her late father. Noce is one of many people who sponsored a flag for the display, erected Friday morning in the Greenlawn Memory Gardens in North Kingsville, just a few feet from Route 20. The flags are back by popular demand, organizers said. The display is meant to honor military veterans and America's first-responders, including firefighters and police officers.

For Noce, it was an opportunity to honor her dad, Matthew Locher, who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps at the very end of World War II. After seeing the inaugural display in 2010, Noce knew she wanted to participate this year.

"It looks so impressive," she said.

More than two dozen volunteers installed the poles and hung the banners, including members of Young Marines and American Legion Neal Post 743 of North Kingsville, a co-sponsor of the event along with Greenlawn.

"We had a lot of help," said John Pildner, post commander.

The 3 by 5-foot flags fly on 8-foot poles arranged in a precise symmetrical grid. The layout was designed so the flags line up in perfect rows, regardless of the line of vision.

A dedication ceremony begins at 11 a.m. today. Guest speaker will be retired Army Col. William Kennedy of Conneaut. "Remember When" will play patriotic music, and a flyover featuring planes from Titan Aircraft, will be held, weather-permitting.

The lineup also includes members of the Ashtabula County Young Marines, bagpiper Gary Quine and village Mayor Terrance McConnell. Local military honor guards will strike the colors at 7 p.m. during the display's stay. The Field of Honor will welcome visitors through Tuesday, which is also Flag Day.

Sponsorships are still available for the flags at \$25 each, said Jennifer Blanchette, of Greenlawn Memory Gardens. After the display, sponsors may take their flags home. Proceeds from the event benefit local veterans groups. To sponsor a flag, go to [www.healingfield.org/nkingsville](http://www.healingfield.org/nkingsville).

It didn't take long for the display to attract attention, Blanchette said.

"People were stopping and taking photos," she said. "Others would drive by and honk or give us the thumbs-up."

Dean Luce, Neal Post 743 adjutant, said he hopes the display returns for a third year. "It depends on whether people support it," he said.

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