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## Memorial Day: Historical Society planning Field of Honor

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Northbrook residents will have a chance to honor family, friends and village residents who have served in the military this year when a Field of Honor is assembled in the Village Green.

The Field of Honor includes rows of tall American Flags that visitors can walk through.

The Field will be the focal point of this year's Memorial Day remembrance in the village. It came out of discussions that followed a visit to Northbrook in 2006 by the traveling Vietnam Memorial.

Judy Hughes, president of the Northbrook Historical Society, said she wanted to find a way to duplicate that kind of interest in the holiday that drew large crowds to the Vietnam Memorial. She talked with John Kemple, who had been instrumental in bringing the memorial to Northbrook.

"We talked the very next day about Memorial Day and how important it was we had this large group of people here," Hughes said.

During the visit by the Vietnam Memorial 43 flags had been put in the Village Green to represent the Northbrook residents who had lost their lives either in war or in some other way while serving in the military. That number, Hughes said, goes back to the Civil War.

In 2009 Hughes was attending a Veterans' Day program at Northbrook Junior High where she learned about a Field of Honor in Naperville that had been used to recognize veterans from that town who had lost their lives in various military conflicts. The Field of Honor was composed of rows of American flags meant to honor village residents who had lost their lives while serving the country.

"I went home and found out more about it," Hughes said.

The idea for the Field of Honor came together with her earlier discussions with Kemple and resulted in the Field of Honor planned for Memorial Day this year in Northbrook.

The goal is to find people or businesses to sponsor 1901 American Flags that will be installed in rows in the Village Green. The flags are intended to recognize both Memorial Day and the year the village was incorporated. It will come on Northbrook's 110th anniversary.

The event is being sponsored by the George W. Benjamin American Legion Post 791 and Northbrook Historical Society with assistance from the Northbrook Park District and VFW Post 10236.

In an effort to make the event as big as possible, the Historical Society is selling the flags at a cost of \$30. The flags are 3 feet by 5 feet each and will be hoisted on 8-foot poles.

Hughes said they initially will be placed in the Village Green for the Memorial Day ceremonies and then the owners will be able to take them home.

"Our goal is to raise funds to place 1901 American Flags in the Village Green," Hughes said. "While corporate sponsors are an important part of our fundraising focus, we want to let folks know that they can purchase a flag for that special service person in their lives and have the flag placed in their name on the Village Green."

The events will start May 22 when the Field of Honor is assembled on the village Green.

Another ceremony is tentatively set for May 26 with additional programs on May 27, 28, 29 and 30. The parade is also set for May 30.

People who have purchased flags will be able to pick them up after the parade.

Flags can be purchased on the Healing Field Foundation web site, <http://healingfield.org/northbrook/>. As an alternative, the site has a link to download an order form that can be mailed in.

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