



Thousands of flags honor veterans at Healing Field in Auburn by [Alex Dunbar](#)

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AUBURN, NY -- For many, the sight of 2200 flags honoring veterans and current servicemen was overwhelming. Tina Cox carried a flag she had dedicated to her grandfather.

"When we called him, he was just so happy. It was like, that someone would think of him and remember him," said Cox."

A part of the Healing Field at Hoopes Park in Auburn was set up to honor the 458 Cayuga County residents who have been killed in combat since World War 1. On Monday, family and friends of veterans searched out markers for loved ones. Each flag is a reminder of a story, a memory or a chance to say thanks.

"Especially the Gold Star moms - they come through and they always say thank you and they're sobbing in the field," said Healing Field Chairperson Darlene Nila. "They told us after the opening ceremony, thank you for not letting people forget their sons and what happened to them."

On Monday afternoon volunteers started the long process of taking down all the flags as many people came for one last look. Carol Hayes sponsored a flag for her late father and said he would have appreciated the Healing Field.

"As a veteran he was part of an organization and he would put several small flags in cemeteries for Memorial Day - so he would have loved it," said Hayes.

The Healing Field is not scheduled to come back to Auburn next year. Organizers hope that many of the flags will be part of a 3000 flag tribute in Auburn for September 11th.

