

Madalyn Letellier

From: Mr. Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 8:55 AM
To: Public Comments; All City Council
Subject: Commanders Letter VFW 529, DAV 27- Som. Veteran Memorials
Attachments: VFW DAV.PDF

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Greetings,

I would like to submit the attached letter from the Commanders of the VFW 529 and DAV 27. The letter highlights residents, citizens, and veterans concerns over the veterans memorials and monuments that have been neglected since 2019. Removing them for the new Somerville High School construction.

Please share with the necessary staff and elected officials cc on the letter.

Thank you for your assistance,

Chris Clark



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

October 21, 2024

Elected Officials
City of Somerville
93 Highland Ave.
Somerville, Ma 02145

Re: Veteran War Memorial and Monuments

Dear Elected Officials and Staff,

We are writing to you as concerned veteran citizens regarding the state of the war memorials dedicated to our city's veterans. In 2019 monuments on Central Hill were removed and relocated to storage allowing for the construction of the Somerville High School. This includes memorial cannons, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Civil War Memorial to mention a few. These memorials are not only a testament to the bravery and sacrifice of those who served our country but also serve as a vital part of our community's history and identity.

As you may be aware, several of these memorials have fallen into disrepair, with some requiring urgent restoration and others needing complete replacement. It is essential that we honor our veterans by ensuring that their sacrifices are remembered and respected through well-maintained and accessible memorials.

We urge the city to prioritize the restoration and replacement of these important landmarks. Memorials serve as places for reflection and remembrance, and they play a critical role in educating future generations about the sacrifices made for our freedoms.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response and to seeing our city take action to honor its veterans in a meaningful way.

In Solidarity,

Robert Hardy Jr.
VFW 529, Commander
Somerville, Ma 02144
Phone: [REDACTED]

Steve Hanson
DAV 27, Commander
Somerville, Ma 02145
Phone: [REDACTED]

Cc: Mayor Katjana Ballantyne
Director of Veterans' Services Jerome Thomas
Senior Project Manager Arn Franzen
Veterans' Services Project Manager Nancy Blanchard
Veterans' Commission for Memorials, Monuments, and Dedications (VetCMMD)