



Town of Amherst



TOWN OF AMHERST VETERANS COMMITTEE 14th ANNUAL MEMORIAL WALL DEDICATION CEREMONY

(Amherst, NY) -- The Town of Amherst Veterans Committee will host the 14th annual Memorial Wall Dedication Ceremony on Sunday, August 17 to unveil the names of 47 veterans from Amherst inscribed in the wall in 2025. With these new additions, the wall bears the names of 440 veterans from the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

"The Amherst Veterans Memorial Wall is a tremendous symbol of the rich military history found throughout our town. Amherst veterans have been there, in conflicts and wars throughout the decades. The honorees each answered the call to serve, and each played an important role in protecting our freedoms. They are deserving of our appreciation and recognition," said Deputy Supervisor Shawn Lavin.

The ceremony will begin at 2:00 PM Sunday, August 17 at the Amherst Veterans Memorial Wall, 390 Mill Street, in Amherst State Park. Limited seating is available so attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair. The event is open to the community and all are welcome to attend and honor the newest veterans added to the Memorial Wall. This beautiful monument recognizes decades of service, honoring brave Amherst servicemen and women.

This year's Featured Speaker is Bill Abbott, Chief Operating Officer for the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park. He joined the Navy in 1993, serving aboard the USS Arleigh Burke. In 1997, he was selected and completed Special Warfare Combat Crewmen training in Coronado, California and spent the remainder of his naval career as a Special Boat Team operator. He retired in 2017 as a Senior Chief after 24 years of service, active and reserve. His service included deployments to Iraq, Albania, South Korea, Bahrain and other areas throughout the world.

“The Amherst Veterans Committee is proud to welcome our honored veterans and their families to the Memorial Wall Dedication. This ceremony is an extremely special and moving event that focuses on the importance of forever honoring veterans. We want to thank the Amherst Town Board for its support of the monument and everyone involved for ensuring all veterans and families have a place to gather and reflect,” said Amherst Veterans Committee Chairman Joe Orzechowski.

The 2025 honorees are as follows:

Army – William J. Bogan (POW), David J. Everett, Leo S. Fiegl, Calogero Galante, Clarence A. Hallen, Howard Holmes, Jr., Isaac Klein, Raymond J. Kruzicki, Earl A. Leising, Sr., Valentine Leising, William Craig Macy, Jamesz E. Mahoney, John P. McTigue, Thomas Murdock, Jr., Kenneth H. Rawe, Jr., Robert F. Ruettimann, Gerald F. Schlosser, Edward V. Schultz, Clifford J. Schulz, Theodore S. Seamans, Edwin W. Snow, Joseph G. Vath, Vincent L. Vullo, Warren Walter Warner.

Marine Corps - Henry C. Mordacz, Robert J. Morgante, John Pawlowski, Jr., Carl F. Ullrich.

Navy - Keith Boerner, Richard G. Bossert, Gary A. Botticelli, Peter A. Goretti, John A. Irr, Jr., Eugene Lodyga, John E. McCadden, Michael J. McCadden, Robert A. Milch, Raymond A. Monahan, Michael V. Olszanski, Robert L. Phillips, John H. Radens, John M. Sitarski, Raymond Weatherbee.

Air Force - Richard Anzalone, Charles Booker, Jenessa R. Preston.

Coast Guard - Daniel C. Mania.

VFW Post 416 and the Amherst Police Honor Guard will present the colors, and a Rifle Squad from the AJ Jurek American Legion Post 1672 will also support the ceremony. The Friends of Harmony will perform.

Wall engravings were completed by Leon Komm & Son Monument Company.

The Amherst Veterans Memorial was developed in 2009 by the Town and the Amherst Veterans Committee to establish a permanent site to honor the United States Armed Forces and individuals connected to the Town of Amherst and the Village of Williamsville who have honorably served in the military. Anyone who is interested in adding a name to the wall for the 2026 ceremony can contact the Town of Amherst by emailing dcerra@amherst.ny.us or calling 716-631-7047.

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