

Proposal by Madison Veterans for Peace Chapter 25 for a Memorial Day-Week 2009 Observation

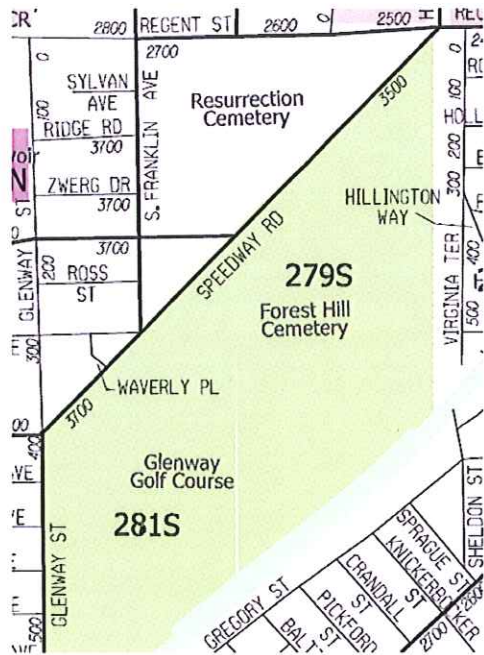
Memorial Day is Monday May 25. We propose to observe it with a public display of 4900 tombstone replicas representing >4903 (as of 2/22/09) U.S. service members killed in the ongoing hostilities in Iraq and Afghanistan. We propose to install them along the northwest border of Forest Hill Cemetery, adjacent to Speedway Road. We will install the gravestones Saturday May 23 and remove them Saturday May 30. This timing should ensure there is no conflict with activities in the Cemetery on Monday May 25 (the celebrated Memorial Day).

Veterans for Peace successfully organized a 1½ day event in Olbrich Park in November 2007, then a week long event there in May 2008, and in November 2008 a successful week long event in Forest Hill Cemetery. In May of 2008 hundreds of people stopped by to visit display, put flowers on the tombstones, and reflect on these deaths. The November 2008 Memorial Mile was also well received, though in the bitterly cold weather there was little foot traffic. Many neighborhood residents assisted with the work.

Significantly, staff at the VA Hospital brought a couple of vans of veterans to the display and expressed their gratitude to us for this memorial (see comments attached.)

Where: Along the northwest side of Forest Hill Cemetery, from the 3500 to 3700 blocks of Speedway, on the grass west of the graves within the cemetery; starting north of the Glenway Golf Course parking lot and continuing to just south of the brick wall at the south edge of the driveway into the north part of the cemetery. We would leave a buffer zone of 4 feet adjacent to Speedway Road. There is no sidewalk along 95% of the stretch we are proposing using, and we have not observed people walking on the grass along there. The only exception would be students

parking their cars for several hundred feet along the northern extent we are proposing; the 4 foot buffer is sufficient for them to exit and enter the right side of their



vehicles. We would provide a buffer around the 2 bus stops along this side of Speedway.

Details: The “gravestones” made are made of lightweight corrugated plastic, 8” wide and 14” tall, using two 3/16” diameter metal rods driven 3” into the ground. The “gravestones” of the 96 Wisconsin war dead will be marked with small Wisconsin flags. To accommodate 4900 gravestones in the 2600 feet along Speedway, we will position 980 rows with 2’ 6” spacing between rows, with 5 in a row, with 10 inches between gravestones in each row, making the row 6’8” across. We will have a 4 foot setback from the curb where there is no sidewalk. (See adjacent photo with tombstones from last November.) There are two bus stops along this side, and we will leave plenty of space around the stop.



Installation and removal: We will assemble about 30 volunteers to set up the gravestones the Saturday morning. Based upon our prior experience this will take 2-3 hours. We will use the Speedway as the staging area for a limited number of vehicles carrying supplies such as we did in November 2008 (we had members in blaze orange and traffic cones.) We will assemble volunteers to remove the gravestones a week later.

Signage: At the beginning and end, will be signs indicating “Veterans Day 2008 - Veterans for Peace – Madison ” and contact info. The gravestones will be demarked with signs indicating major events and the theater--Afghanistan or Iraq—and each year.

Cleanup: In November, we thoroughly policed the area prior to installation and removed trash. During the removal, the area will be swept thoroughly and everything removed.

Personnel: As we did previously, we will organize volunteers to be present 24-7 at a central location (a 10x10 pop-up tent located the southern end of the cemetery, shown in photo), to



discuss the memorial with interested members of the public, adjust any blown over signs, etc.

Ceremony: There will be no ceremony in Forest Hill Cemetery. Veterans for Peace will hold its yearly Memorial Day service on Monday, May 25, in James Madison Park as it has previously.

Insurance: We will have a \$1,000,000 general liability insurance policy, with the city named as an insuree. Also as required, we will give the City a check as a security deposit.

VFP contacts:

Richard Chamberlin 770-3762 chamberlin.richard@gmail.com

John Fournelle 438-7480 jhfour@gmail.com

Joel Garb (VFP Treasurer) 767-4099 joel.garb@gmail.com

**Please adjust your records, and mail all communications to
Richard Chamberlin
5310 Healy Lane
Monona, WI 53716**

(John Fournelle is away traveling and will not return until March 14. Do not send mail to him as it will not be received in a timely manner)

Appendix:

Gail Price is a therapist, member of Veterans for Peace, and a volunteer at the VA Hospital.

To: John Fournelle <jhfour@gmail.com>
From: Gail Price <resortmom@earthlink.net>
Subject: memorial mile
Date: Sun, 22 Feb 2009 14:31:55 -0600

Hi John,

I spoke with two people connected with the VA hospital. One was Richard Machotka, whose title is "Peer Support Specialist" and the other is Bob Kelter who is the head of the Social Work Department. Both of them volunteered that they (the VA) had taken "a group"/"a couple of vans" of vets to see the Memorial Mile last fall and that they (both vets and staff) really liked it, thought it was "awesome", took pictures of it and so on. One of them, I think it was Kelter but I'm not sure, said that having it close by like it was, had been instrumental in the choice to take the men because it was so close and therefore easy.

Gail