

## Proposal by Madison Veterans for Peace Chapter 25 for a Memorial Day-Week 2008 Observation

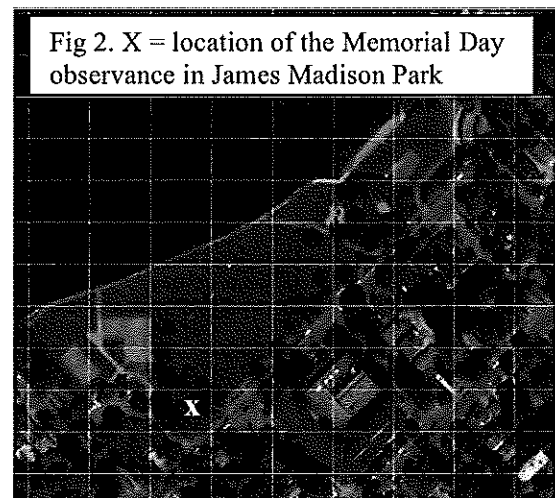
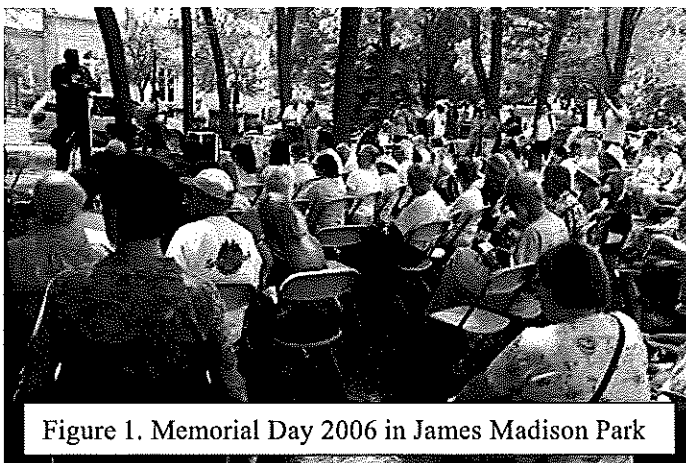
Memorial Day is Friday May 30 and it is observed Monday May 26. We would like to observe it with a ceremony on May 26 in James Madison Park as VFP has traditionally done and with a week-long gravestone display in Olbrich Park along Atwood Avenue, as done for Veterans Day 2007. We propose to install the gravestones Sunday May 25, and remove them Saturday May 31.

(Below we describe each part of the proposed week-long commemoration separately.)

### May 26 James Madison Park Commemoration

**What:** The event is to commemorate Memorial Day in a peaceful, respectful and appropriate manner, honoring the war dead of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade of the Spanish Civil War, as well as all those who have served and died in all wars. As sponsor, Madison Veterans for Peace proclaims the message and spirit that the nation and all nations must find ways to avoid war and resolve global political differences in a peaceful and non-violent manner. James Madison Park is the location of a memorial honoring the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

This event will include ~4 speakers starting at 1pm and end at ~2:15 pm with a flower ceremony at the marker for the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. The public is invited and there is no charge. This has been held here for many years and based upon the past, we estimate attendance by 50-75 people (Fig 1). For setup and takedown time, we would request a permit from noon until 3 PM.



**Where:** This 1-1.5 hour event will be held immediately north the Gates of Heaven shelter, to the west of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade memorial, on the grass under the trees, in the southern end of James Madison Park (X marked in Fig 2).

**Details:** Chairs from the Gates of Heaven will be used; if weather is favorable, chairs will be set up outside under the trees and put back inside after the event. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be held inside the Gates of Heaven.

**Cleanup:** VFP will be responsible for policing all liter and cleanup afterwards and replacing chairs.

## May 25-May31 Olbrich Park Gravestone Commemoration

What: This is a week-long public installation of ~4500 gravestone replicas to remember the lives of the ~4500 U.S. service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan during the current war. (As of Feb 2, figures are: Iraq 3944 and Afghanistan 482). Vets for Peace successfully organized this event here in November 2007, where it was in place for 1.5 days. (Fig 3)

Where: South/southwest side of Atwood Avenue, 3400 to 3700 block, on the grass adjacent to the sidewalk, away from the street; starting just east of Starkweather Creek (Fig 4), interrupted by the driveway to the parking lot/boat ramp, continuing, interrupted by Walter Street, continuing to the end of part property just before the Eastside Club

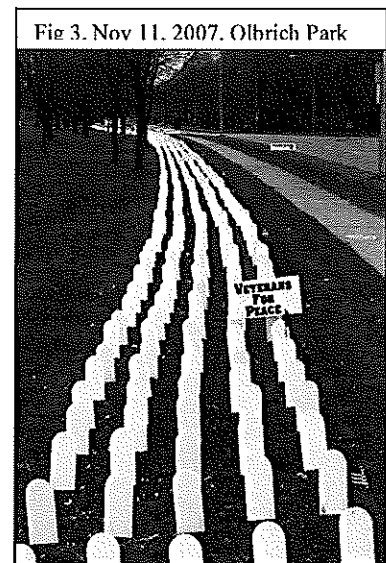
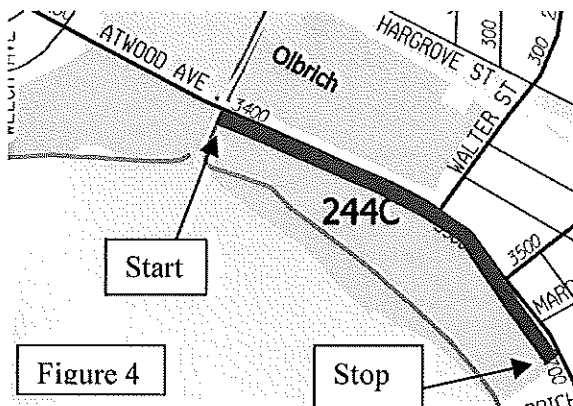


Fig 3. Nov 11, 2007. Olbrich Park



Details: gravestones made of lightweight corrugated plastic, 8" wide and 14" tall, using 2 3/16" diameter metal rods 3" depth in ground for each. The gravestones of the ~90 Wisconsin war dead would be marked with small flags. To accommodate 4500 gravestones in the 2200' along Atwood Avenue, we would position 900 rows with 2' 6" spacing between rows, with 5 in a row, with 12" between gravestones in each row, making the row 7'4" across. We would have a 4' setback from the sidewalk (see Fig 3).

Installation and removal: We would assemble ~3 dozen volunteers to set up the gravestones the morning of Sunday May 25; based upon our November experience this will take ~3 hours. We would use the park's southeast (tennis courts) parking lot as staging areas for a limited number of vehicles carrying supplies, and will request volunteers to park in the Olbrich Gardens parking lot so as not to interfere with boaters using the northwest Olbrich Park lot. We would assemble volunteers to remove the gravestones the morning of May 31 and again have them use Olbrich Gardens parking lot.

Grass Cutting: At this time of year the grass may grow quickly during the week of the installation. We have members who have volunteered to trim the grass if necessary during the week with mowers and weedwackers (the rows are spaced to permit a normal size lawnmower between them).

Signage: At the beginning and end, will be signs indicating "Veterans Day 2007- Vets for Peace - Madison" and contact info. The gravestones will be demarked with signs indicating major events and either Afghanistan or Iraq. We would also have several signs entitled "The Cost of War" which would state the number of dead and wounded, and the financial cost of these wars. One thing that developed in November was adding flowers to the gravestones, and we would plan to continue doing that.

Cleanup: During the removal, the area will be swept thoroughly and everything removed, including any flowers that have fallen on the grass.

Personnel: As we did in November, we would organize volunteers to be present 24-7 at a central location, to discuss the memorial with interested members of the public, adjust any blown over signs, etc.

Ceremony: There will be no ceremony at Olbrich Park.

Insurance: As we did in November, we will have a \$1,000,000 general liability insurance policy, with the city named as an insuree.

February 4, 2008

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