

CHESHIRE, CT VETERANS' MEMORIALS



Veterans Memorial Plaza is located in front of Cheshire Town Hall at 84 South Main Street. It was created in 1990 to commemorate the men and women of Cheshire who served in the U.S. military from the Revolutionary War to the present. Also listed are several men who fought in the French and Indian War. A plaque honoring men and women who served since then or whose service had been previously overlooked was added in 2008. The tear-drop shaped granite sculpture, entitled "Paradox," was designed by Cheshire artist Jerry Lodynsky. Two plaques, dedicated to Revolutionary War veterans and World War I veterans are also here.

Civil War Memorial is a granite obelisk, 20 feet high, and is possibly the first monument dedicated to the veterans of the Civil War erected anywhere in the United States. It was dedicated in July of 1866. The name FOOTE refers to Andrew Hull Foote, a Civil War admiral and native of Cheshire. The name LINCOLN on the other side of the monument's base honors President Abraham Lincoln. The names of Cheshire residents who gave their lives in or who fought in the Civil War are included on the plaques attached to the obelisk. It is located on the Church Green in the center of Cheshire on Route 10, in front of the First Congregational Church and the Cheshire Historical Society.



Medal of Honor Plaza is located in Bartlem Park, across from Cheshire High School, 525 South Main Street, facing Route 10. This star-shaped plaza is 50 feet wide and is constructed from bricks inscribed with the names of veterans from Cheshire or who were connected with Cheshire. In the center of the plaza is a black granite monument commemorating the two Cheshire residents who were awarded the Medal of Honor: Sgt. Eri Woodbury (Civil War, 1864) and 1st Lt. Harvey Barnum, USMC (Viet Nam, 1965.) It was designed by Jerry Lodynsky, an artist

from Cheshire who also designed "Paradox", the tear-drop shaped sculpture located at the Veterans Memorial Plaza. Planted around the plaza are seedlings from authenticated historic trees at places such as Gettysburg, Washington's Delaware crossing and Connecticut's Constitution Oak.



Daughters of the American Revolution Memorial is a large, bronze plaque located on the back of the entrance gate to Hillside Cemetery on Wallingford Road, near the Cheshire Grange building, just east of the Town Hall. It lists all of the Revolutionary Soldiers who are buried there. It was erected by the Lady Fenwick Chapter, DAR, July 4, 1976.

Another **Daughters of the American Revolution Memorial** honoring Cheshire's Revolutionary War soldiers is located in a large rock at the base of the Cheshire Street Cemetery flag pole in north Cheshire, near the Ives farm. It names the Revolutionary War soldiers buried there.



Cheshire High School Memorial consists of a group of plaques honoring Cheshire residents who died serving our country. It is located at the base of the flag pole in front of Cheshire High school, 525 South Main Street. Most of the smaller plaques had been placed at the bases of memorial trees planted in honor of the person named on that plaque. Over the years, the plaques became overgrown and a few were damaged during lawn-cutting. They were "discovered" by Cheshire residents Frank Papandrea and Ron Gagliardi who were walking away from the reviewing stand of the town's Memorial Day parade. All of the plaques were located, gathered and installed in cement at the base of the flag pole. The larger plaque is dated May 30, 1955, covering World War I, World War II and the Korean War. The Viet Nam War plaques were added later.

Grave of Sgt. Eri Woodbury is in the St. Peter's Episcopal Church cemetery behind the church, 59 Main Street. He was awarded the Medal of Honor before he became a Cheshire resident, having enlisted to fight in the Civil War from his home state of Vermont. During his many years in town he was a teacher at and the principal of the first Cheshire High School and was the headmaster of the Episcopal Academy, now called Cheshire Academy. Prior to his death in 1928, he was the last surviving Cheshire resident to have fought in the Civil War. His Medal of Honor is on display at the Cheshire Historical Society.

