

COLCHESTER, CT VETERANS MEMORIALS

The town of Colchester has five different monuments erected to the memory of those who fought and died in the country's wars. The Civil War monument is located on the Town Green which is about three acres and located in the center of town. Just across the road from the northerly end of the Town Green is a much smaller green, approximately 1/3 of an acre where the other veterans monuments are located.

Civil War monument

It was erected on September 17, 1875 and is dedicated to those from Colchester who lost their lives in the war for the Union. It was designed by George E. Bissell and is done in granite. It is about 16 feet high and is composed of three parts: the base, a pedestal and the figure of a soldier standing atop the pedestal. Colchester's monument is unique because the soldier, rather than gazing straight ahead as was common, is holding his hat in his hands and is looking downwards in a contemplative mood.



World War I

The World War I monument is a tall rectangular boulder of granite and stands about twelve feet high. On the monument is a brass plaque bearing the names of those who served and those who died in the war. Atop the monument sits a brass eagle with its wings outstretched. Over the years, exposure to the elements has caused the eagle to turn green.

World War II and Korean War monument

Soon after World War II, a wooden sign was put up on the Town Green with the names of all those who served in the war. A more permanent monument was erected in 1952 and is dedicated to those who fought in World War II and also the Korean Conflict. It is of polished pink granite and is a long rectangular block that appears to be in three sections. The two side sections are about four feet high and the middle section is about eight feet high. The side that faces the town green is dedicated to World War II and on it is a brass plaque bearing the names of the those who served in World war II and another plaque with the names of those who died in the war. It also pays recognition to William J. Johnston who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The other side of the monument is dedicated to the men who fought in the Korean Conflict.

Westchester Village monument

A second monument was erected in the Westchester section of Colchester. It is a small granite boulder approximately 2 and a half feet high with a brass plaque dedicating the monument to the men of Westchester village who served in World War II and the Korean conflict and with special recognition of Anthony Piekarcz and Paul Sablitz, two men from the village, who were killed in the fighting of World War II. The monument was moved to its present location in the Ponemah Cemetery.



Vietnam War monument Dedicated on Nov. 11, 1983. The stone for the monument was cut by the same quarry in Vermont that had cut the stone for the National Vietnam memorial in Washington, D.C. The Colchester monument was the first Vietnam War monument in the country to be fully supported and paid for by taxpayers instead of having to rely on private donations.