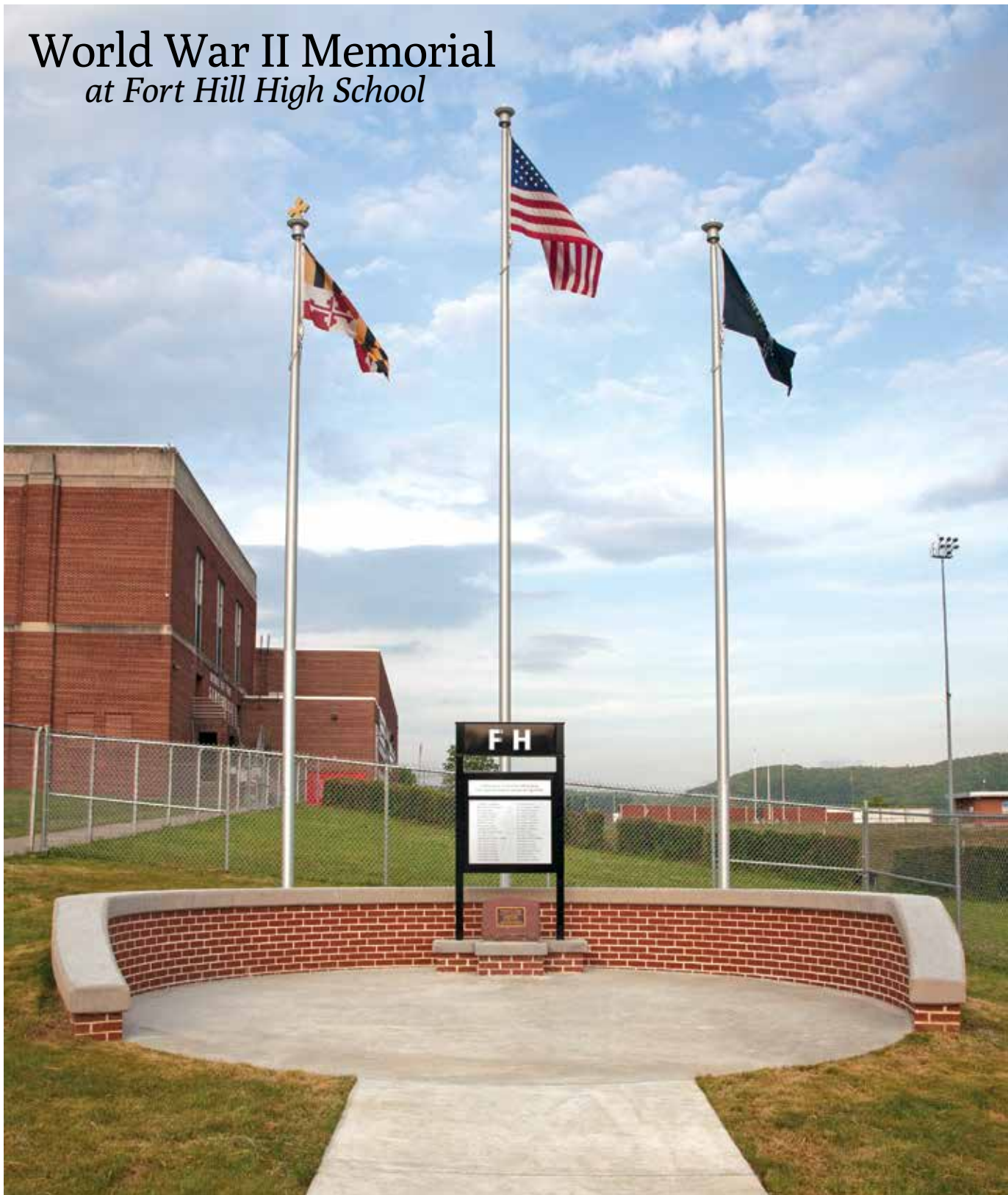


World War II Memorial *at Fort Hill High School*



AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR CIVILIZATION
IS TO REMEMBER THE SACRIFICES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE TO SECURE
THE FREEDOMS THAT WE EMBRACE ON A DAILY BASIS.



Written by: **Shelby Calhoun**
Photography by: **Mike Calhoun**

During World War II, 38 members of Fort Hill High School, in Cumberland, Maryland, perished while serving their country.

In 1945, Fort Hill custodian, Mark Roe, installed a marble stone on school property, with the wording “In memory of the boys of Fort Hill who gave the ultimate sacrifice.” After many years of tree growth and deterioration, the memorial was almost unrecognizable. The members of the We Are Fort Hill Committee began an effort, in 2019, to honor those students, by revitalizing the almost forgotten site. “I’m sure it was nice at the time,” stated Mark Manges, Fort Hill Alumni and member of the We Are Fort Hill Committee, “but the trees were diseased and dying. It had three flag poles around it, but they were so close the flags would get tangled. It was an eyesore.”

Mark further stated, “The biggest challenge, without a doubt, is research. You have to research names and be accurate, and that



Above (left to right): Fort Hill senior and speaker, Carl Eckard; Fort Hill Principal, Candy Canan; WWII veteran, Floyd Wigfield and Ellen Arnone, Fort Hill alumni and member of the Memorial committee.

Inset: Floyd Wigfield, 102, Fort Hill alumnus and WWII veteran attended the dedication ceremony on May 20, 2021.

was all Ellen Proudfoot Arnone.” Ellen, also a Fort Hill Alumni and member of the committee, spent numerous months researching and following leads to ensure that all students who belonged to Fort Hill and perished in the war would be recognized on the proposed memorial. Through her many avenues of inquiry, it was discovered that what was thought to involve 17 students actually wound up honoring 38 students that have now been named on the new memorial.

Mr. Vince Montana, who was Director of Facilities for Allegheny County Public Schools during the initial planning of the new memorial, was an integral part of the design, and current Supervisor of Facilities, Jay Marley, along with members of the ACPS Maintenance Department, carried out the completion.



The original 1945 marble memorial sits at the base of the new memorial honoring the 38 members of Fort Hill High School who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II.

On May 20, 2021, the new World War II Memorial, located at Fort Hill High School, on Greenway Avenue in Cumberland, was dedicated before members of the We Are Fort Hill Committee, Fort Hill alumnus and WWII veteran, Floyd Wigfield; Fort Hill High School Principal, Candy Canan; Fort Hill High School Senior and speaker at the event, Carl Eckard; the Vietnam Veterans Chapter #172, and numerous members of the public.

“OUR DEBT TO THE HEROIC MEN AND VALIANT WOMEN IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY CAN NEVER BE REPAID. THEY HAVE EARNED OUR UNDYING GRATITUDE. AMERICA WILL NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICES.”

— HARRY S. TRUMAN

In Memoriam of these Fort Hill students who made the Supreme Sacrifice during WWII

Lt. Glenn L. Armbruster
 Pfc. Harold W. Baumgardner
 Pvt. Francis Beck
 Pfc. Eugene Beckman
 Lt. Kenneth C. Bohrer
 S/Sgt. James E. Bucy
 Pvt. Dale E. Buser
 Pfc. Leroy W. Chase
 Cpl. Richard F. Cotter
 Sgt. Maurice Edwin Crabtree
 Pfc. Milton J. Crowe
 Marshall Alex Fletcher (USMM)
 Pvt. Clyde E. Golden

Sgt. Charles H. Hensel
 Sgt. Ralph E. Huffman
 Pvt. James E. Johnson
 Pvt. Ronald F. Kesecker
 S/Sgt. William C. Kirby
 Floyd Kunes, Jr. (MMM)
 Pfc. William R. Lantz
 2nd Lt. Donald K. Lathrum
 Pvt. Franklin P. Lehman
 Pfc. William J. Lehman
 Pfc. Charles E. Linder
 Sgt. Harold E. Messman, Jr.
 Pfc. Coyle Joseph O’Neal

Pfc. George W. Poole
 Cpl. Melvin D. Redhead
 Sgt. Homer Sarver
 Sgt. Robert H. Shaffer
 Petty Officer Victor Tambolleo
 Pfc. William S. Thorpe
 Pvt. William E. Turner
 S/Sgt. Claude E. Weaver
 Sgt. Edward Eugene Weaver
 T/5 Robert Weaver, Jr.
 Cpl. Richard F. Wiegand
 Pfc. Earl Kenneth Wilson