



WRA
Alumni War Memorial

The WRA Alumni War Memorial Committee
would like to thank:

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Lt. General (Ret.) Daniel W. Christman '61

OUR DONORS

Brooke Anderson II '57
Dr. Philip A. Anderson '66
Richard & Ruth Andrews
Christopher J. Bach
Steve & Katie Green Barger '88
William E. Beller '58
Edward S. Benhoff '53
Beverly Bierbusse (d)
Stephen R. Bing '58
John M. Bourne '57
Sally & Harrison T. Bubb '57
Suzanne & John Buck
Kelly Raymond Burdsall '89
Lt. Gen. (Ret) Daniel W. Christman '61
Anthony A. Cox Jr. '58
Charles A. Dill '57
Morgan & Greta Green Foster '92
Sherry & Martin D. Franks '68
Mary & John R. Gier III '59
Jonathan & Jennifer Bubb Graham
Sarah & Jim Gramentine '52
Skip Green '57
Gretchen & Tom Green '55
Jackie & Robert T. Green III '86
Aaron & Dr. Wendy Green Halpern '84
The Hasbrouck Family
Peter S. Hellman '68
Mollie & William D. Heron '58
Donovan D. Husat '64
Ronald S. Ihrig '57
Thomas L. Jones '65
H. Alan Keener '57

Robert L. Keener '64
Walter E. Klippert '59
Theodore C. Krismann '57
Mary G. & Dr. Robert E. LeFevre '58
Elizabeth & Nathaniel '82 Leonard
Andrew B. Lewis '59
William N. MacDonald '59
Col. (Ret.) Allan J. MacLaren '55
Deborah & Robert S. McCulloch III '69
Thomas N. McGrew '58
Gayle & George F. Medill '59
Joy & Tom Murdough
Ambassador John D. Ong
James M. Parry '58
John S. Pyke Jr. '56
Gretchen & Dr. Loren A. Raymond '58
Dr. Katherine L. Raymond '85
Peter D. Rebar '81
Penelope & Sheldon C. Rieley '57
John H. E. Rombouts '58
Judy & Stanley C. Ruskin '58
Barbara & Friedrich Thiel '59
Robert D. Thomas Jr. '57
Lisa R. & Dr. Carl P. Thum '66
David M. Thum '68
Debra & Eric E. Thum '73
Susie & Robert B. Thum '63
Sharon & Ned Topping '57
Herbert R. Wainer '59
Timothy R. Warner '69
Lt. Col. (Ret.) Joseph A. Wright II '58



The WRA Alumni War Memorial: A History
November 14, 2022

The concept of a war memorial began in 1947 with the creation of the Memorial Capital Campaign to build the new Memorial Gym and renovate Bicknell Gym. One of the campaign's stated goals was to include a memorial plaque that would be a tribute to the 893 alumni of the school who served in World War II and especially the 46 who had died during that conflict.

By 1949 discussion in earnest had begun about the suggested memorial plaque. It was decided that listing all names of WWII participants would not be feasible, and the names of the 46 who paid the ultimate price were listed by class with the remaining men mentioned as a whole in the text.

**Reserve's War Dead Honored In Memorial Gym Dedication;
Mr. Izant And Mr. Stevenson Speak In Honor of Soldiers**

Sharply at 2:00 P.M., last Sunday, after a very pleasant dinner in Cutler Hall, the students, alumni, parents, and friends of Western

Reserve Academy congregated in the Memorial Court, opposite the tablet which bears the names of the forty-six Reserve graduates who gave the last full measure of devotion to their country. Immediately in front of this tablet, between the United Nations and the United States flags, was the speakers' platform, from which Mr. Robert H. Wilson, president of the Board of Trustees officially presented Reserve with its new Memorial Gymnasium.



Memorial Court Crowd Listens to Mr. Izant

After Mr. Hallowell had accepted the Gym on behalf of the school, Mr. Robert J. Izant of Hudson spoke briefly, representing the parents and relatives of those whose names are inscribed on the great bronze tablet. He was followed by Mr. James D. Stevenson, of Cleveland. As a classmate of many of those who gave their lives, Mr. Stevenson spoke for the many friends made by these honored dead during their stays at Reserve. Next, as president of the senior class, Tom Taylor spoke briefly on the student body's response to the challenge of their predecessors. The Reverend Mr. John Wellbridge of the Hudson Congregational Church then concluded the brief but very impressive ceremony with prayer.

Memorial Courtyard Dedication. Reserve Record, May 1951

Once the design of the plaque was finalized, the Campaign Committee settled on Cleveland Frank L. Jirouch as the sculptor and the Roman Bronze Works of Queens, NY, to cast the plaque, which was dedicated on May 27, 1951, the 125th anniversary of WRA.

In the fall of 1953, Hudson resident Harrison "Hub" Bubb entered WRA as a freshman. To him, the plaque honoring the Academy's fallen was

impressive; its importance stayed with him for a lifetime.

In 2004, thanks to the outstanding generosity of Joy and Tom Murdough, the new WRA Murdough Athletic Center opened. As beautiful as it is, the new facility created one casualty: the WWII War Memorial had gone from being in plain view daily to being in a dead-end corner, no longer visible to any foot traffic. Newcomers to campus were unaware of its existence. And time had taken its toll as can be seen below.



Fast forward to 2019. Local members of the Class of 1957, including Hub, were attending an 80th birthday party hosted by Erika and Brooke Anderson '57 and Sharon and Ned Topping '57. During that event Hub discussed the problem of the now-invisible memorial and the challenges it presented, including possible solutions. Further discussion with Brooke Anderson led to a plan.

The plan seemed simple: present the idea of designing and building a memorial in the center of campus to the new Head of School Suzanne Buck. So Hub did just that. As a newcomer to campus, Mrs. Buck's reaction was not surprising; she had no idea what or where the current memorial was. But – she did not say “No,” and showed real interest.

The next step was a conversation with her at the 2019 Christmas Party. That led to her introducing Hub and Brooke to Dr. Nicholas Kent, whose assignment was to pursue the idea further. That evening, Dr. Loren Raymond, Class of '58, was made aware of the idea; he immediately volunteered as a participant. Great addition: his skills as a fundraiser were significant to the

success of this project. A meeting was set in early 2020 with Nicholas Kent, a committee was formed, and the rest is history – sort of.

Turning an idea into a reality can be daunting. First, the Committee needed an initial visual rendering of the idea, which was provided by WRA and then initiated the final design process.



If a book were to be written about this project the title should be: “Three Amateurs Saved By A Pro.” And that pro is architectural designer Christopher Bach of Hudson, whose design talent and skills have created a worthy memorial to our fallen. He has provided the project with top quality manufacturers and restoration specialists. His supervision of the construction has guaranteed perfection.

Not only will these names live on through the Memorial, but also in the classroom. WRA is offering an elective Hudson history course which includes the stories of the men being honored. And the library will receive from the Committee a selection of books pertaining to them.

The WRA Alumni War Memorial Committee thanks our generous donors and the WRA Administration for their great support.