Linon’s “Monument to Freedom!”

Many of you are aware that efforts have been underway for about two years to complete a long overdue memorial honoring all of the veterans of the armed services from Lindon, either living or dead. Many of these citizens of Lindon gave their lives for us, and all of them gave years of their lives and service to our country and to the freedom’s that we all enjoy... and often take for granted. I’m happy to report that the major design, construction and installation of the monument is complete.

Through the efforts of many volunteers and hundreds of hours of work, over 400 names are included on the monument. Although great effort has gone into being as accurate and complete as possible, mistakes have been found, some minor spelling errors occurred and some names have not been included. Through advertising in the city newsletter and web site and by contacting all local religious groups, LDS Stakes and Wards we have asked for any names of service members so they could be included. We ran into difficulties with the actual armed services as they were reluctant to provide even names and branch of service because of privacy laws. Now with short time before the dedication event which is scheduled for Memorial Day, May 30th, we are asking a final time for names from you, to be included before the Memorial is dedicated. There is still time. Please take the time to stop by the cemetery at 550 North 200 East, to review the names as they are on the granite. The names are not in order on purpose, to allow visitors time to locate and appreciate others they may know who served, while searching for their special service member. It may be easier to stop by the City Center or the Police Department front counters to review the lists there, which are in alphabetical order. All we need are verified names, with correct spelling and a known branch of service. Included on that list are about 60 names for whom we simply don’t know if they were in the Army, Navy, Marines etc. Please review those names as well and help us give them the honor that they deserve.

Unfortunately we have to establish a cut-off date for names to be included this year. That date is April 15th. Names obtained after that date will be too late to allow for engraving in time for the dedication. Going forward, future service members qualifying for inclusion on the monument can be added.

To date this project has been completed entirely with donated funds, Thank You Donors!, and there are no ongoing funds planned to pay for future additions to the monument. The current plan is to contract with the monument company so that once a year, they will come out and add new names to the Memorial in time for the yearly Memorial Day event. For this service the City will ask for a nominal fee from the family. Current estimates are that this amount would be approximately $25.00 per name. If the worst were to happen and a service member from Lindon were to lose their life in service, the City will absorb those costs.

Please plan to attend the dedication event, as on that date, Lindon City will also be entering into a “Community Covenant” with all branches of the service which will provide for assistance to the families of deployed service members from our city, all in an effort to make life a little easier for those families who are making a sacrifice for our freedoms. The past 2 years have seen crowds of 500 for this event. Together let’s try to have all Lindon veterans in attendance and break those attendance marks. This historic monument will stand forever as an honor to those to whom we all owe so very much. I thank you for the allowing us the honor of this project and look forward to seeing you all in attendance there!

Cody Cullimore    Chief of Police