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Vets seek memorial at The Crossings

It would be Colonie's first tribute to the thousands of town veterans from all five military branches

By **DENNIS YUSKO**
Staff writer

COLONIE — Veterans are passing the helmet around for a new military memorial they want to build at The Crossings next year.

Members of the Robert L. Weininger Memorial VFW Post 8692, in conjunction with the town, have presented a 2,500-square-foot design that would incorporate bluestone, a reflective pool and five engraved plaques representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

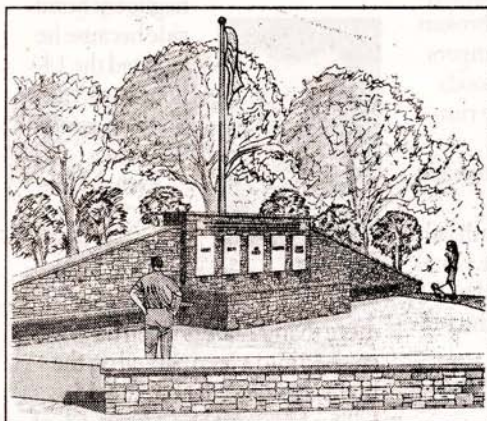
While there are individual war monuments in pocket parks across town, the new project will mark the first tribute to the thousands of town veterans from all five military branches, said Commander Robert LaDuke, who came up with the idea.

The stone structure will be anchored by a flagpole near the playground in the town park on Albany Shaker Road.

"The memorial's location is fitting," LaDuke said. "Thousands of kids go to the playground with their parents, and if they want to go over and see what's there, their parents can give them a little



TOWN OF COLONIE



VFW POST 8692 members, from left above, Bill Marquet, post Commander Robert LaDuke, Jim Haas and Milt Greenfield unveil plans for the memorial. A rendering, at left, depicts the proposed veterans memorial at The Crossings of Colonie.

To donate

To make a donation to the memorial or obtain a form to buy a brick, write: Colonie Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 12083, Albany, 12212, or e-mail dukerlightman@aol.com.

LaDuke, a 56-year-old Vietnam veteran.

The project could cost up to \$125,000, he said.

To help raise money, the VFW will sell memorial bricks inscribed with the names of town veterans. The stone pavers will be placed in front of the memorial.

The handicapped-accessible, tree-lined setting also will have benches and connect to a bike path. Town vets hope to have it completed by next year's Veterans Day, which is Nov. 11, 2008.

The project was designed by Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture & Engineering P.C. at no cost. It will have five stone plaques mounted on a wall with a pool of water in front.

The design was intended to blend in naturally with the park's atmosphere, LaDuke said.

history lesson."

The project is now in a fundraising stage. The VFW is seeking at

least \$50,000 in donations from the community, local businesses and other veterans' organizations, said

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