

Mayor Brainard's Remarks  
Unveiling of statue at Freedom Circle, Veterans Plaza  
Saturday, October 14, 2006

MAYOR:

Welcome to this much anticipated event at the Carmel Clay Veterans' Memorial, the unveiling of the statue that will grace this plaza.

It is important to all generations that we honor and remember those who have fought and served our nation to preserve our freedom, which makes America such a great nation. While we should never take those freedoms for granted, it is even more important during times of conflict to remember why we fight for freedom. Many of us have loved ones involved in the current war with Iraq and we must show them our support.

This Veterans Plaza has been named "Freedom Circle." It gives us a place to come and reflect on the sacrifices others have made. The addition of this beautiful statue gives us another focus for our reflection on the service of others and our freedoms. It is important to have a place to come and remember those who were willing to give their lives and those who did give their lives in service to our country. It is also important that we located Freedom Circle in City Center, a place that will eventually be Carmel's downtown, so that all residents and visitors will come in contact with this memorial frequently. It is not in some far off corner of our city, but in the heart of our city. I hope you visit and enjoy it often.

Please welcome Rev. Michael Ireland from Orchard Park Presbyterian Church for the invocation.

Posting Colors (American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars)

National Anthem (Ken Knowles)

MAYOR:

Thank you.

We will now begin the flag raising ceremony. I will raise the American and Indiana flags and then will introduce the individuals or companies as they raise the service flag they sponsored.

Mayor raises American and Indiana Flags

- Raising the Army Flag are Mr. & Mrs. Les Olds
- Marine Flag – Jim and Sally Hubbard
- Navy Flag – Mr. & Mrs. John Molitor, Sr
- Air Force Flag – Stephen Scutz
- Coast Guard Flag – Estridge Companies represented by Paul Estridge Jr.
- POW-MIA Flag – Hamilton Co. Veterans Traveling Wall Committee, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Bopp and Mr. & Mrs. Jerry York

MAYOR:

Now the Carmel Symphonic Brass Quintet will perform the Armed Forces Medley.

MAYOR:

Please welcome Cynthia Baney as she will perform her original song "Honor."

MAYOR:

I want to recognize those with us today who made this day possible.

Major Benefactors:

- Clay Township - Ron and Judy Hagan, Jim & Sue Dillon
- Clarion North – Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Goble
- Indiana Farmers Insurance Group – Mr. & Mrs. Dan Stone

Benefactors:

- Janice Battenberg
- Bob & Jeane Book
- Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Cordingley
- Bill & Dorothy Ensign

I'd like to recognize the following people who were also involved in making this happen:

- The Hackl Family
- The Kasler Family
- Gen. & Mrs. James Bauerle – President of the local Reserve Officers Assn.
- Emmy Huffman – representing Senator Lugar's Office
- Beth Delph – representing Senator Mike Delph
- Tom & Karen Poyser – Sincerus Art Center
- Bill & Mrs. Wolfe – Sculptor
- Mo Merhoff – Exec. Director – Carmel Chamber of Commerce
- Carmel Clay Veterans Memorial Board of Directors –

Now I would like to turn the microphone over to Retired Marine Colonel Bob Book, who has given much of his time in active and retired service to our nation This includes being former president of the Carmel chapter of the Military Officers Assn. of America and President of the Indiana Military Veterans Coalition. He worked as a civilian for Elanco, a division of Eli Lilly. He has served our community on the Clay Township board and Regional Waste District. Ladies and Gentlemen, Bob Book

Bob Book introduces the keynote speaker, COL James Kasler, USAF (Ret.)

MAYOR:

Thank you Colonel. I have been reading your book and am very moved by your experiences, dedication and loyalty to our nation.

Before the statue is unveiled, I would like to introduce the woman who was the model for the female depicted in the statue. She is with us today, a veteran of the war with Iraq, Amy Holmes Beaslery.

Now, it is with great pleasure that I invite William Wolfe, the statue's Sculptor and Thomas Poyser from the Sincerus Bronze Art Center to unveil the statue.

Thank you for joining us today.

This statue will forever be a landmark in Carmel, inviting all who pass to pause and remember those who served our great nation.

God Bless America