

# Somers/Dailyvoice 4/14/2014

## Somers' Lasdon Park To Remember D-Day With Special Event

by [Nathan Bruttell](#)

SOMERS, N.Y. -- Somers' Lasdon Park will host a military vehicle show and a special D-Day exhibit as part of a special event on Saturday, May 31.

The event, which begins at noon, marks the 70th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy, France on June 6, 1944, during World War II. The event will feature a military vehicle show, a special D-Day exhibit, big band music and dancing, food from the field kitchen and military memorabilia at the Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans' Memorial, in Somers.

An array of military vehicles, ranging from World War II Jeeps to modern command trucks, will be on display throughout the day, along with military enthusiasts wearing period uniforms, according to a release.

The Westchester Veterans Museum will inaugurate its D-Day exhibit, featuring an extensive collection of photographs, colorful maps, models and other displays. The Gerard Carelli orchestra's music of the 1940s will headline the musical acts.

"Guests are encouraged to attend dressed in period clothing and dance to their hearts' content," representatives said. "Visitors can also enjoy delicious food and drink that will be sold in the authentic mess tent and field kitchen or visit the Officers' Mess."

The cost of the event is \$20 per vehicle. Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans' Memorial is a Westchester County Park that is located on Route 35 in Katonah. For more information, residents can go to the [Lasdon Park website](#) or call 914-864-7268.

## Remembering heroes amid the holidays



Bill and Ellen Zimkin of Elmsford walk by the Vietnam Memorial on Saturday at Lasdon Park in Katonah.



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Hugh Gallagher of Elmsford adjusts a flag Saturday at Lasdon Park in Katonah. The Vietnam Veterans of America Westchester County Chapter 49, in association with the Wreaths Across America Project, placed holiday wreaths at the Vietnam Memorial and at each of the statues on the Trail of Honor at the park.

# Vigil at Lasdon to honor fallen troops on Sunday

## Veterans to put candles on park's Trail of Honor

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SOMERS — Vietnam veterans from Westchester will host a Christmas celebration for their fallen comrades on Sunday at the Trail of Honor at Lasdon Park.

Hundreds of candles will be placed along the trail and at the monuments commemorating U.S. military conflicts in a striking dusk vigil sponsored by Westchester's Chapter 49, Vietnam Veterans of America.

"This is our Christmas for the men and women who did not come home from Vietnam," said Dan Griffin, executive director of Chapter 49.

The vigil comes on the heels of what Griffin described as "one of the most successful Wreaths Across America ceremonies we've ever had. I'm really hoping we get a good public turnout for the vigil too."

That ceremony, held at the park on Dec. 13, attracted about 50 spectators, the largest crowd ever, Griffin said. A lack of sponsors for the wreaths, which are placed at all of the monuments, put the ceremony in jeopardy until a Journal News/lohud.com story helped publicize the need. As a result of the story, Griffin said, the number of wreath sponsors jumped from 10 to 162,



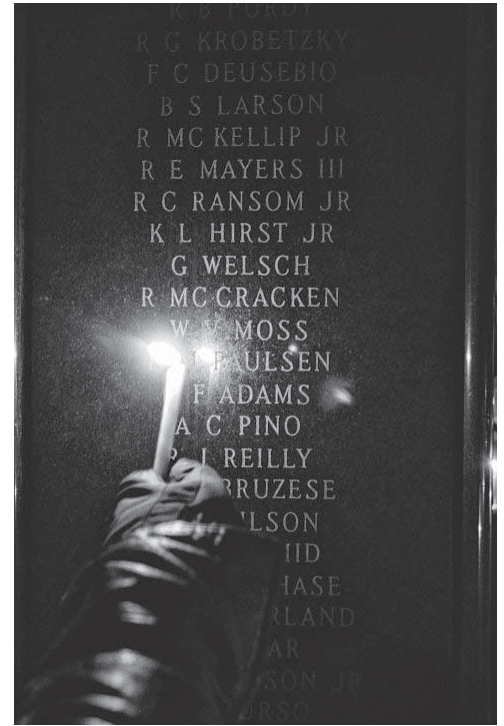
The Trail of Honor is lit by candles leading to the Vietnam Memorial at Lasdon Park in Somers.

and Westchester's VVA chapter received \$600 in donations.

Veterans and Boy Scouts from White Plains Troop 73 will place candles along the quarter-mile Trail of Honor and at the monuments.

During the 4:30 p.m. vigil, a procession will move along the trail, pausing at each monument to remember those who gave their lives in service of the country. The names of Westchester residents who died will be read, and a Christmas tree will be decorated in their memory.

The vigil is to begin at 4:30 p.m. at the park, located at 2610 Amawalk Road, Route 35.



FILE PHOTOS BY RICKY FLORES/THE JOURNAL NEWS  
A Vietnam veteran lights the names of soldiers who were killed in the war at a candlelight vigil at the Vietnam Memorial at Lasdon Park in Somers.