

News Release



Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County of Summit Dedicates World War II Memorial at Courthouse

On November 9, 2018, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro, Summit County Common Pleas Court Administrative Judge Amy Corrigan Jones, Summit County Veterans Service Commission Director Larry Moore and members of the veteran community held a ceremony to dedicate the County's World War II Memorial plaques at the Summit County Courthouse. The plaques, previously displayed on the University of Akron campus, contain 1,534 names of Summit County residents lost in World War II. They were recently installed outside the Courthouse near the World War I Doughboy statue.

The plaques were first installed in Memorial Hall at the University of Akron in 1954. They remained there until 2010 when the university tore down the building. David Pierson, Vice President of Capital Planning and Facilities Management at the University of Akron, had the plaques removed prior to demolition and stored for safekeeping. Earlier this year, Executive Shapiro's office executed plans to display the plaques at the Courthouse.

"We can never repay the sacrifice our service members made, but we can honor those who laid down their lives with memorials like this, and we can support those veterans still here with the resources they need," said Executive Shapiro. "Summit County has a rich tradition of supporting our veteran community and I am proud to carry on this legacy."

The Summit County Courthouse Rotunda was packed full of veterans, their families, advocates, elected officials and others. A handful of World War II veterans were present to view the plaques in their new home. The Ellet High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps presented the colors and the Summit Choral Society opened and closed the ceremony with patriotic tributes.

"Like generations of patriots who came before them, these few shoulder the burden for many. It is because of their dedication and sacrifice that we thank and honor all those who have placed country above self, who have determined the safety and security of others as more important than their own," stated Director Moore. "Now, more than ever, it's important that we take time to thank and

remember these veterans who selflessly sacrificed themselves. These plaques will demonstrate “They will not be forgotten”.

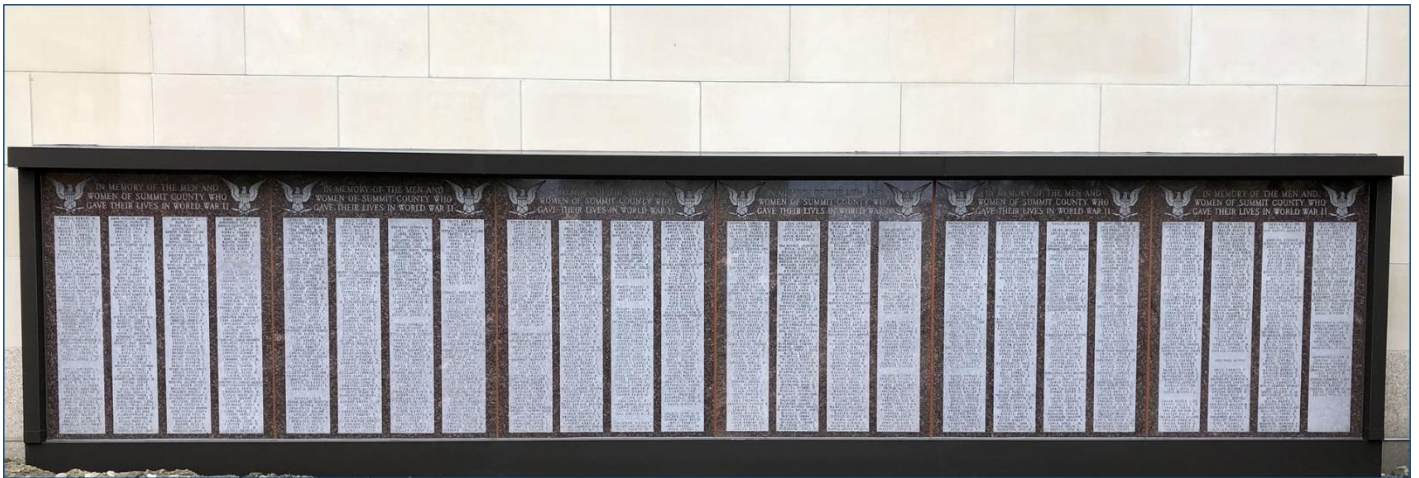
Judge Corrigan Jones, who presides over Summit County Valor Court, urged attendees to look closely at the plaques and give thanks for the service of both the soldiers and their families. She indicated that the memorial would “serve as a reminder to all who come into the courthouse of the price paid for the freedoms exercised within the building.”

Executive Shapiro noted that Bruce Kilian, a Vietnam Veteran and Commander of the Fairlawn VFW Post 349, was a driving force in completing the project. Kilian, who spoke at the ceremony, said, “The men who gave their lives in all of our wars need to be recognized and honored. The WWII casualties of Summit County stand among those brave and deserving soldiers. We at the Fairlawn VFW Post 349 are proud to be a part of displaying these magnificent tablets for all to see. I would like to thank both The University of Akron and Summit County for taking the necessary steps that made this memorial a reality.”

The ceremony concluded with comments from World War II and Korean War veteran, Barberton resident, Joseph Genet. “It was my honor to have served my country with 12 million other service men and women in WWII. I am fortunate today to be here for this dedication to ensure the sacrifices of these individuals who served will forever be remembered in Summit County.”

To learn more about the Veterans Service Commission of Summit County, visit <http://www.vscsummitoh.us/>.





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