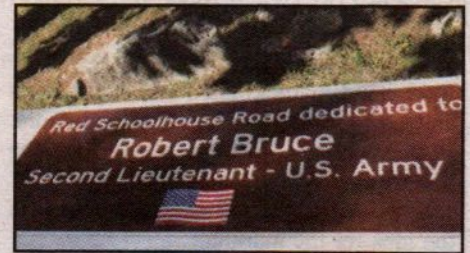
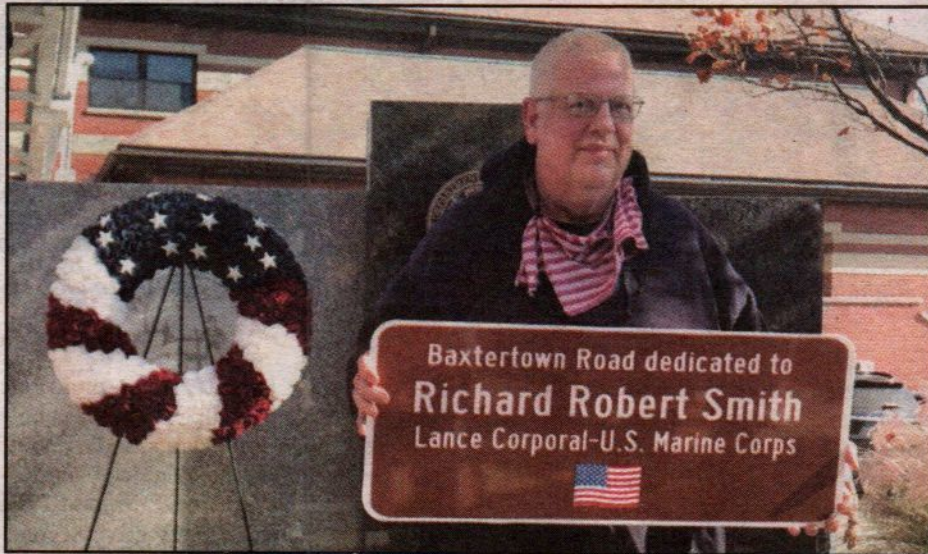




Fishkill soldiers killed in action during Vietnam War honored



Dutchess County and Town of Fishkill officials held a ceremony recognizing three Fishkill soldiers who were killed in action during the Vietnam War. Above, Local resident William Smith holds the road dedication sign in honor of his late brother Richard Robert Smith, who was a Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps. The sign will be placed on Baxtertown Road in the Town of Fishkill.

Right, from top: Dedication road markers for Osborne Hill Road and Red Schoolhouse Road in honor of Private First Class Michael Garlo and Second Lieutenant Robert Bruce.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

By Kristine Coulter

Three Fishkill residents killed in action during the Vietnam War were remembered before Veterans Day. Street dedication markers, to remember the three war heroes, were presented during the County Road Dedication and Mount Beacon Eight Anniversary Observance ceremony, held by Dutchess County and the Town of Fishkill, on Saturday, Nov. 7 at the Town of Fishkill War Veterans Memorial Park. Also recognized were the Mount Beacon 8, eight U.S. service members who were killed in planes crashes on Mount Beacon in 1935 and 1945.

William Smith held the street dedication marker with the name and rank of his brother, Lance Corporal Richard R. Smith, U.S. Marine Corps. The sign will be placed on Baxtertown Road, a county road in the town.

"I'm a man of few words," said Smith. He said the dedication of Baxtertown Road for his brother means so much to him.

Smith told those in attendance about the meaning of the Baxtertown Road dedication and its importance to him. He recalled how he would travel the road while visiting his father at the VA Hudson Valley Healthcare Service Castle Point campus.

Richard Smith, who was born in Fishkill, was a graduate of Roy C. Ketcham High School in the Wappingers Central School District. He was killed in action when he was 20 years old.

Assemblyman Kieran Lalor, a veteran, said LCpl Smith "left behind a family - including a brother." Lalor presented the road dedication marker to Smith.

Fishkill Town Supervisor Ozzy Albra said the town and Dutchess County in dedicating these county roads are honoring these courageous men.

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Road dedication markers honor Vietnam veterans

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Osborne Hill Road will be dedicated to U.S. Marine Corps Private First Class Michael Garlo.

Garlo enlisted in the Marines at the age of 19, remarked Albra. He was killed in action in Aug. 1969 at the age of 20.

Red Schoolhouse Road is dedicated to the memory of Second Lieutenant Robert Bruce, who was in the U.S. Army.

Bruce was born on Sept. 7, 1944. He was a graduate of Roy C. Ketcham. He enlisted in the Army Reserves, stated the Supervisor. He was killed in Sept. 1969.

Albra, who is a veteran, said the town owes it to these service members' families to remember them.

Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro said when Albra met with him for the first time after taking office, Albra said he did not want anything from him but then added 'there are three men...'

"Of course, we immediately agreed and the process moved forward," said Molinaro about the road dedications. The dedication markers do not change the names of the roads.

Molinaro stated those killed on Mount Beacon in 1935 and 1945 were "indestructible." One of those on the plane on Nov. 11, 1945 was Dixie Kiefer, who J.V. Forrestal, a Beacon native and U.S. Secretary of the Navy, nicknamed 'indestructible' for all of the injuries he

overcame during his service to the country.

The five others on the plane with Kiefer that fateful day 75 years ago were: Lieutenant Command Ignatius Zielinski, Lloyd Heinzen, Hans Kohler, Clarence Hooper and David Wood.

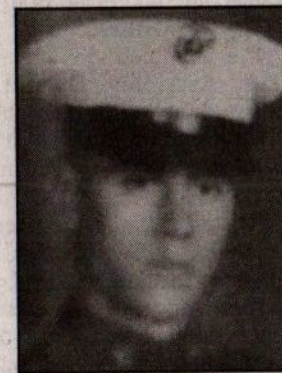
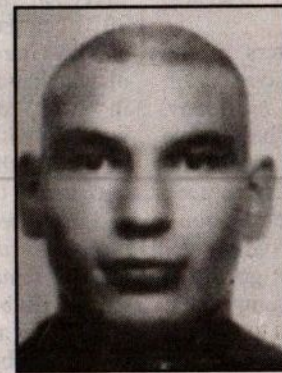
The six were on their way to watch the Army football game against Notre Dame at Yankee Stadium that year. Kiefer, a captain, was commander of Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island. Kiefer was Executive Officer of the USS Yorktown and commander of the USS Ticonderoga. Kiefer was a US Naval Academy graduate.

Hooper's daughter, Patricia Hooper Wiggins, was scheduled to attend the ceremony, stated David Rocco. Rocco, along with Don Keith, wrote a book about the called "The Indestructible Man: The True Story of World War II Hero 'Captain Dixie.'" Hooper Wiggins was only 13 months old when her father died. She was unable to travel to attend the ceremony.

County legislator Douglas McHoul read a proclamation that will be sent to Hooper's daughter.

The ceremony also honored the 85th anniversary of another crash that occurred on Sept. 14, 1935, which took the lives of two servicemen, Lincoln Denton and Clinton Hart.

Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney stated, "They were real people with real families."



Road dedication markers were presented during a ceremony in the Town of Fishkill on Saturday, Nov. 7. The dedication markers honor Vietnam veterans, from left, Second Lieutenant Robert Bruce, Private First Class Michael Garlo and Lance Corporal Richard R. Smith. Bruce, Garlo and Smith were killed in action during the Vietnam War.

-Courtesy photos



William Smith, second from left, holds the road dedication marker which honors his late brother Lance Corporal Richard R. Smith, who was killed in action during the Vietnam War. With Smith are, from left, Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra, Councilman Ori Brachfeld and Councilwoman Louise Daniele.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter