

This Week at NNI



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Deb's Desk (a weekly update from NNI CEO Deb Hermann)

Reflections on a Northland Memorial Day

This Memorial Day brings to mind a small army of men, some gone now—but many still very much alive—who gave the Northland a lasting legacy.

They came in waves following their service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Home from the war in Europe and the South Pacific, the vets started families and grabbed the first house available in the post-War housing crunch, with help from the G.I. Bill. A few years later, with the prosperous 1950s underway and good jobs available at the Ford Plant, TWA and Farmland Industries, they and their Korean Conflict cohorts migrated to the Northland to fulfill the American Dream of a new house in the suburbs. Men like Ray Brock, Gene Hankins and Dave Dunlop (among many others) were part of this formative time for the Northland. In the 1960s came the veterans of Vietnam: Keith Nelson, Pete Hall and Don Van Dierendonk (again, among so many others) migrated or returned to the Northland. They all brought with them a strong work ethic and a spirit of civic pride rooted in their military service. They worked hard, raised their families, took care of their homes, and got engaged in civic and neighborhood life.

Together, they transformed the Northland into a community and bequeathed a lasting legacy, a living memorial. The legacy will continue as our young men *and* women return from the desert wars of our own time. It's a different world, to be sure. But one thing remains constant. Our heroes of yesterday and today unselfishly gave us the freedom we cherish in the land we love. And they carried away from far-away battlefields the discipline, courage and comradeship that we so desperately need in the task of building great communities here at home. We honor those who died in our defense and thank those who came home—and will come home again—to build a great Northland. It is a living memorial to celebrate this Memorial Day and every day.

News Bites

NNI Annual Meeting is June 25

If you renewed your NNI membership, your neighborhood organization is eligible to vote for NNI board members and bylaw amendments at the Annual Meeting, 6 p.m., June 25 at NNI. If you did not renew, get an early start on next year's Annual Meeting by renewing now. Go to www.nni.org or call for an application at 454-2000.

ABOPT time approaching!

ABOPT. That's anti-freeze, batteries, oil, paint and tires, and they can be dropped off Saturday, June 30, 8 a.m. to noon. **NOTE THIS CORRECTION ON LOCATION:** just north of Metro North shopping center near the old theatre. **Volunteers are needed!** Call 816-454-2000.

Calendar for May 28 – June 25

5/28/12	MEMORIAL DAY: Meet Your Councilpersons CANCELLED	
6/12/12	8:30 a.m.	1 st District Problem-Solving Meeting
6/13/12	9:00 a.m.	Senior Workshop
6/20/12	6:30 p.m.	Cop Talk
6/25/12	6:00 p.m.	NNI Annual Meeting followed by Board Meeting at 7 p.m.