



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

State University of New York

Civil War, World War I and World War II

**VETERAN MEMORIAL
PLAQUES
REDEDICATION**

honoring our alumni, faculty, staff
and student veterans

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2018

University at Albany, Downtown Campus

*"Valor is stability, not of legs and arms,
but of courage and the soul."*

- Michel de Montaigne



PROGRAM

Introduction

Glenn Phillips '18

President, UAAlbany Veterans Student Group

Presentation of Colors

Army National Guard

Welcome

Lee Serravillo

Executive Director, Alumni Association

Remarks

James Stellar, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

History of the Veteran Memorial Plaques

Geoffrey Williams

UAAlbany Archivist Emeritus

World War I and Edward Eldred Potter, Class of 1919

Paul Ward, Ph.D. '53, '54

Professor Emeritus and World War II Veteran

Unveiling of the Memorial Plaques

Civil War

Provost James Stellar and Crystal Wilson '19

World War I

Susan Potter Mintzer and Patrick Corcione '73, '74

World War II

Eugene McLaren '48 and Richard Fairbank '66, '73

Conclusion

Please join us for a reception at Husted Hall following the event.

THE WAR MEMORIAL TABLETS AND THE VETERANS WALL OF HONOR: A CHRONOLOGY

Compiled by Geoffrey Williams, University Archivist Emeritus, 2018

1894, June 28

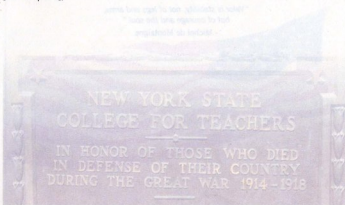
At the School's Semi-Centennial Jubilee Alumni Association President Milford H. Smith '79 suggests the Association raise funds for a Soldiers Memorial Tablet honoring the School's Civil War dead. In 1896 Albert N. Husted SNS '55, a long-time faculty member and lieutenant and subsequently captain of the Normal School Company, was designated chairman of the fund-raising committee. (Annual Meeting Minutes, June 28, 1894 & January 3, 1896, Alumni Association Minutes, 1872-1917, pp. 67 & 69)

1900, June 14

At the conclusion of a successful alumni fund-raising campaign, the Soldiers Memorial Tablet honoring the State Normal School's Civil War dead was unveiled in the Normal College's Willett Street Building. (Report of the Reunion, June 14-15, 1900, Alumni Association Minutes, Vol. 1872-1917, p. 79, Alumni Association Records)

1906, January 6

The Willett Street building burns, destroying most historical records, the Alumni Memorial Window, the Soldiers Memorial Tablet and all the oil portraits of principals, presidents, and executive committee members that were hung in the gutted Assembly Hall. (Executive Committee Minutes, Jan. 15, 1906, p. 631 [transcription])



1907, February

Second fund-raising campaign began for Civil War Memorial Tablet launched by the Metropolitan Alumni Association at its February meeting. A.N. Husted SNS '55 was named chair of the fund-raising committee at the Annual Meeting in June. (Annual Reunion Minutes, June 22-23, 1908, Alumni Association Minutes, 1872-1917, p. 111-12)

1910, June 20

The second Soldiers Memorial Tablet, costing \$411.71, is installed in the Administration Building (subsequently Draper Hall) entrance hall on the newly opened (1909) Western Avenue campus. It replaced the original tablet lost in the 1906 fire. (Annual Reunion Minutes, June 20-21, 1910, Alumni Association Minutes, 1872-1917, pp. 134, 136)

1920, June 19

WWI Soldiers Memorial Tablet collection started at the suggestion of James Edsall, Class of 1884. (Annual Meeting Minutes, June 19, 1920, Alumni Association Minutes, 1917-1956, p. 48)

1921, June 19

WWI Soldiers Memorial Tablet Committee raises \$296.88 for tablet, which is installed on Alumni Day 1921 in the Administration Building (subsequently Draper Hall). Any surplus funds to be allocated to a new World War Memorial Fund for student loans. (Executive Committee Minutes, April 19, 1921 & Annual Meeting Minutes, June 19, 1921, Alumni Association Minutes, 1917-1956, pp. 55, 61)

1953, June 13

Dedication of WWII Memorial Tablet. The project was a joint Alumni Association and Student Association project. Conceived by the Student Association, it was suggested to the Alumni Association at the 1952 Alumni Reunion. The plaque may have been designed by Roger Yoemans '53. (See Paul Bulger, "Alumni Association President's Report," Alumni Quarterly, July 1952, p. 3 for the origins of the idea to create the plaque, and photo of the presentation ceremony at the June 1953 Alumni Reunion, "Memorial Plaque Dedication." Alumni Quarterly, July 1953, p. 5. For Roger Yoemans role see "Report on the Memorial Plaque," by Mary L Battisti, Secretary, Student Council, Alumni Association Records, Series 3, Subject Files, 1851-2004.)

CONTINUED ON BACK →

A CHRONOLOGY (CONT.)

1966

The tablets were moved from Draper Hall to the new Administration Building on the Uptown Campus. They hung until 2000 in the west entrance to the Administration Building by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

2000, Spring & Summer

The Uptown Campus Administration Building was vacated for an off-campus site on Western Avenue adjacent to the Uptown Campus while the current Administration Building was being built. The Administration Building was converted into academic office and class space for the College of Arts and Sciences. The official date for the move was May 2000. The War Memorial Tablets were removed from the Administration Building for safe keeping and stored in the University Archives in the University Libraries. (Christine Hanson McKnight, "Master Plan: Winter Progress, Western Avenue Move," University Update, February 17, 2000, p. 2; re. the May date see Mike Boots, "Master Plan Progress," University Update, September 14, 2001, p. 3)

2001, June 9

Dedication ceremony for the Veterans Wall of Honor honoring Albany faculty, staff, students and graduates who have served in the military since the founding of the school in 1844. The Wall consists of a nine panel, 36-foot long mural created by Albany artist Dahl Taylor using snapshots and illustrations of service men and women. The Wall is mounted in the President's Lounge on the second floor of the University Library. The Veterans Wall was the brainchild of Eunice Whittlesey '44, a past president of the Alumni Association, Helen Brucker Martin '44 and Eleanor Alland '48. She was joined by many alumni volunteers in a major research project to identify veterans and collect images of soldiers. The aim of this project was to reconnect the University with students, graduates, faculty and staff who had served or are serving their country in the military. ("Honoring University at Albany Veterans," University Update, May 3, 2001, p. 4)