

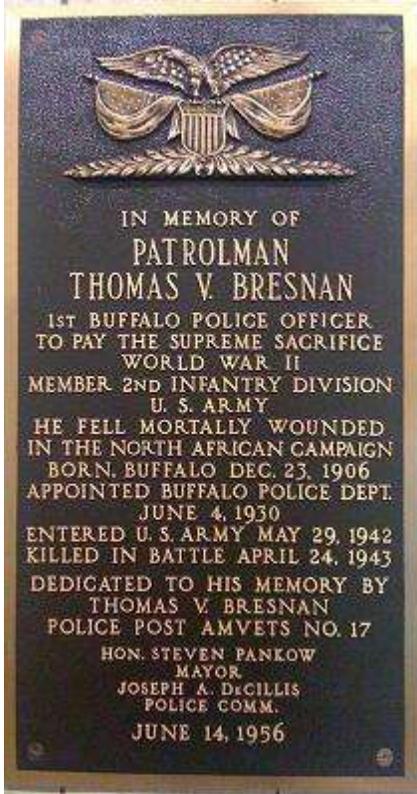
Epilogue

In addition to the markers in the cemeteries and memorials, there are other remembrances of our classmates. These are some, and hopefully there are others out there.

It is likely that the list of South Park's fallen warriors will grow as time passes. The challenge for us will be in realizing the loss. In researching this, it was immediately apparent that community and school were key points in newspaper stories published to their readership during the early to mid-20th century. As reliance on print media has waned in favor of the internet for "news", and the shifting focus away from including one's school as a social marker beyond graduation, it will become more difficult. People are more mobile, neighborhoods and social interests have changed.



World War II Memorial at South Park High School



<http://buffalopba.homestead.com>

A bronze plaque honoring Thomas V. Bresnan, the first member of the Buffalo Police Department to be killed during World War II, was dedicated in the lobby of Police Headquarters on Flag Day, June 6, 1956. The inscribed plaque will remain permanently in the lobby and was unveiled and dedicated by the Rev. Joseph Coughlin, police chaplain.

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy Football Team dedicated their 2014 season to T. James “Jimmy” Crotty. An article in the Boston Globe³⁰² describes him during his time at the Coast Guard Academy and also the ceremony honoring him and his family. A team



<http://uscgasports.com/sports/fball/2014> Helmet Logo

linebacker Victor Rizzardi said, “I think it’s cool that he was the Football captain here and was also the lead guy in explosives and stuff.” Added Rizzardi, “...He did so much. Football captain. Company commander. All these

different leadership roles here and then in the war. It makes me think, ‘Don’t waste the day away.’ I’d like to think that we can show the same resilience and toughness he must have shown on the Football field 80 years ago.” Discussions are underway to locate and return him to America.

An e-mail was received at the South Park website on March 25, 2015. It read in part,



“Hello, Ms. Hannon. I am not actually a SP alumni, but I am writing in regard to someone who was: Arthur S. Humphreys.

Let me explain. I am an associate clergy at St. Simon's Episcopal Church in South Buffalo. Every Tuesday morning I lead an informal around-the-table Eucharist with a small group. For Communion, we use a small silver intinction set (combination chalice and paten) which is engraved, "In memory of S/Sgt. Arthur Humphreys, 1921-1945."

We don't really know much about Arthur. I checked the register of memorial gifts, and I

³⁰² <http://www.bostonglobe.com/sports/2014/09/13/coast-guard-dedicates-football-season-world-war-hero-jimmy-crotty/Yok7BDoyFp9XzOiXapvvAL/story.html>

cannot find anything regarding this set. Over time our Tuesday morning group has come to think of this young man as the "silent member" of our group, and he is always remembered in our prayers... signed, Linda Malia (Rev.)."

The South Park Alumni Association responded with additional information on Arthur and some information on another fallen warrior, Robert Hamm, who also attended there.

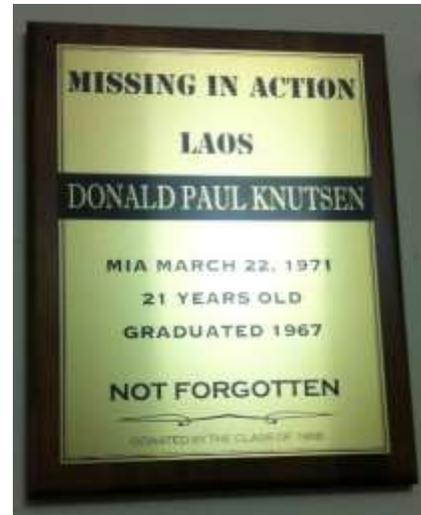
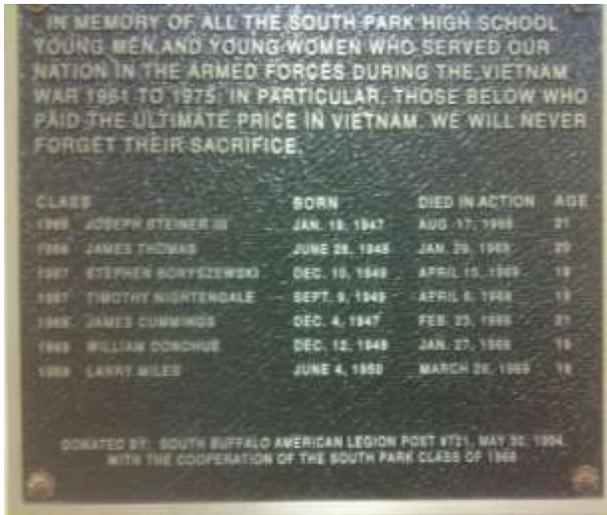


The pipe organ rebuilt and electrified in 1947 and dedicated to the glory of God in memory of our William Burden and Leonard R. Kohl, young men of their church congregation who gave their lives for their country in World War II was moved to St. Matthews Church, 5940 McKinley Parkway in Hamburg. In response to an e-mail inquiry of October 2015, Mr. Gary and Mrs. Marilyn Rich related that the organ is still in service and is played every Sunday.

A Memorial to the service and sacrifice of Francis Edgar McGuire was dedicated on March 17, 2012 and a plaque was placed in his honor at the base of the flagpole at the Valley Community Association Center on Leddy St.



In Center Hall at South Park, wall plaques recognize and honor the sacrifice of those lost in the Vietnam War and one Missing in Laos.



A plaque and testimonial is also present in Center Hall honoring Sgt. David McKeever. In addition, a renaming ceremony was held on October 16, 2005 at which time the American Legion Downtown Post #64 was renamed to the David McKeever Post #64. The Post is located at 1770 South Park Ave. at the intersection with Southside Parkway, just blocks from his school. He walked past this building each day as a student.

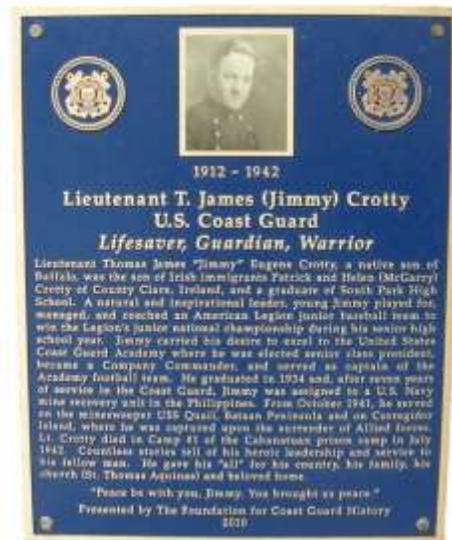
At the foot of Pearl Street is One Naval Park Cove and the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park. When visiting, people interested in our military history and remembering many, many of our local heroes can also tour the *USS The Sullivans* (DD-537), one of the ships there. During the tour, a memorial to Jerry Reilly is posted in an



aft berthing compartment, reminding us of South Park's loss when America lost the *USS Juneau* and the Five Sullivan Brothers.

Depending on how you enter or exit the Naval Park, as you pass the brick building at the cobblestone walkway near the *USS The Sullivans*, visitors will find that it contains among other things a museum of Buffalo and Erie County's military service.

A number of plaques adorn the outside of that building, tributes to many from Buffalo and the units they served in. One of them honors Jimmy Crotty. It lists him as a South Park graduate and as a "Lifesaver, Guardian, Warrior."



On the second deck of the museum, at the entry to a room called the "Multi Purpose Room" is a picture of Salvatore Balestrieri.



Fitting, is it not, that Jerry Reilly, Jimmy Crotty, and Salvatore Balestrieri who each answered the whispered call of their ancient heritage as seafarers, should be remembered so close to the water and once mighty ships that sailed in peril on the sea. The now quiet museums are curators for the memories of old warriors and a beacon for young dreamers who walk the decks and passageways in awe, as they provide shelter to the granite memorials for our local heroes. There is goodness in this.

Every effort to identify each South Park student who lost his or her life in service has been made. Further, every effort to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information has been taken. With that, in the event an individual has been missed, or information overlooked, please contact the school.

As mentioned, *supra*, this project is intended to be a contextual framework around the word *remembrance*; to add a face and chronicle every name.

Consider some of the scope of their sacrifice for a moment:

Several saying goodbye to their families or wives and not seeing a child born after their departure, and absence from countless family events ever after.

None of them knew the outcome of the battles or wars they were fighting in.

In the time since their loss, consider what we have experienced and now often take for granted; space travel, computer technology, the Internet, advances in health and science, the list goes on. What part could they have had in this?

Each of our fallen warriors had aspirations for their future. Yet, they were willing to put them on pause and risk all while they stepped forward in dangerous times. Each of them had plans. Can you not hear them say, "...when this is over, I'm going to..."

Of course, their sacrifice meant that long lists of hopes, dreams, opportunities, potential and "what-if's" went to dust for them, their families and loved ones.

How would we ever be able to assess the impact of this on our community? How can we truly thank them other than by remembering each and honoring their service?

The only "happy ending," albeit bittersweet, to each of their stories is that *we of South Park* keep their memory alive.

"Vires acquirit eundo"