

## THE MONUMENTS AT FREEDOM PARK

<b>World War I</b>	<b>November 4, 2017</b>
<b>World War II</b>	<b>May 27, 2019</b>
<b>Korean War</b>	<b>May 27, 2019</b>
<b>Vietnam War</b>	<b>June 15, 2007</b>
<b>Post-Vietnam</b>	<b>October 21, 2010</b>

The "Moving Wall," a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC that serves as a solemn reminder of the more than 58,000 lives lost between 1956-75 in that Southeast Asian country, recently visited Freedom Park, Wednesday, June 14, 2006. The Moving Wall was open to the public at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, June 14th and closed on Monday, June 19th at 4:00 pm.

An idea occurred to create a **Vietnam Monument** in Medford. The names of those from Burlington County that were on the Moving Wall would be on the Medford Monument. Money was raised thru Fund Raisers, denotations and Township contributions. The Vietnam War Monument was dedicated June 15, 2007.

Freedom Park was selected for the **Post Vietnam Monument** because of the existing Vietnam monument. And the new monument centralizes the Park as the location within Burlington County for anyone who would like to honor soldiers from Vietnam through present day. The MRVC, together with the Marlton Assembly of God, organized a 5K Memorial Day run/walk that was designed to raise funds to build the monument.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War I was 2017. Those involved in the earlier Monuments formed a Committee. Additional persons volunteered to help. Funds were raised to design, fabricate, install and conduct a Dedication Ceremony. For a **World War I Monument**.

The above efforts resulted in 3 monuments at Freedom Park. There was a desire to finish the job by having a **WW II** and **Korean War** Monuments in the Park. The Burlington County War Monument Committee, with the continued cooperation of Medford Township Council was formed. Again, funds were raised to design, fabricate, install and conduct a Dedication Ceremony in 2019. Thus there are 5 monuments that honor all of the brave citizens of Burlington County who served our country during wars and conflicts from World War I to the present.

Sufficient funds were raised to purchase a **Battlefield Cross** and have it installed at the Park in 2019. The Battlefield Cross is a symbolic replacement of a cross. The practice started during or prior to the **American Civil War**, as a means of identifying the bodies on the battlefield before removal. It is made up of the soldier's **rifle** stuck into the ground or into the soldier's boots, with helmet on top. **Dog tags** are sometimes placed on the rifle, and the boots of the dead soldier can be placed next to the rifle.

For each of the 5 Monuments, a Booklet was prepared. The primary purposes of the Booklets were to identify the Men of Burlington County, New Jersey that were casualties of those Wars. The Booklets contain (as available) photos and military history of the individual.