

June 14, 2025

Jonesport, Maine

Friends, neighbors, distinguished guests, and, especially, fellow veterans and family members of veterans...

Welcome, and thank you all for gathering here today to honor and celebrate the men and women of Jonesport who have served in our nation's armed forces. This veteran memorial honors their courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to the freedoms we hold dear. And it stands as a testament of our gratitude and remembrance of their service and sacrifice.

We dedicate this space to remember all those who donned the Nation's uniform with pride, those who answered the call of duty, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. They are our heroes, our protectors, our inspiration.

This memorial, however, is not just of stone and metal. It is a product born of compassion and collaboration, a symbol made possible by the generosity and dedication of this community. To the citizens of our Jonesport, who so generously contributed to bring this vision to life, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your commitment to honoring our veterans is a powerful reflection of the unity and spirit of our community.

We citizens of Jonesport owe a special debt of thanks to Cynthia Lee, whose foresight and generosity was instrumental to make this memorial possible by donating this land to the town. Cynthia, we hope this memorial reflects the vision you had in mind when you made this tremendous gift. Your contribution will now forever be a part of our town's legacy, inspiring generations.

We also recognize and thank the talented team of veterans, designers, and builders who poured their creativity and dedication into this project. The primary team members who worked on this memorial include Aaron Dennis, Al Grignon, Cynthia Beauvais, Harry Fish, and Ike Hubbard, plus many others who stepped up and helped the team when needed. Your hard work and passion have created a space that we believe perfectly embodies the honor and respect our veterans deserve.

We also want to extend special recognition and thanks to Jim Elias of Elias Monuments. He generously shared his experience in helping the team design the memorial. And, of course, our thanks and sincere gratitude go out to Tim Look and his team for their meticulous site preparation and construction.

As we dedicate this veterans' memorial, let us remember the stories of valor, recall the tales of friendship, and recognize the courage displayed in times of conflict. Let us honor the legacy of those who have fallen, those who have returned, and to those who continue to serve our nation.

We would be remiss if we did not also salute and commend the families of our veterans: your support and sacrifice are the backbone of our strength. You stood with us through long deployments, faced the challenges of uncertainty, and provided the solid foundation that enabled us to serve with dedication and honor. We veterans offer our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering love, patience, and the silent courage you demonstrate every day.

Let us now vow to ensure that the sacrifices made by veterans are never forgotten, teaching future generations the values of honor, duty, and country. May this memorial become a place of reflection, a place of remembrance, and foremost, a place of peace.

In closing, let us pledge to strive every day to live up to the ideals for which our veterans fought. May we be worthy of this legacy of bravery and honor.

Thank you for attending today. God bless our veterans, our generous citizens, and our dedicated team. May God bless the United States of America.