

LAKEWOOD SUN POST

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OPINION

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Veterans Memorial is a project well done

It was well worth the time and effort. That's the consensus on the newly rededicated Lakewood Veterans Memorial.

A large crowd gathered on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, at Lakewood Park to celebrate the city's newly refurbished and improved memorial. For years the small park within the park existed as a tribute

to the city's veterans, a public expression of thanks for the sacrifices made by the men and women who served, serve and will serve their country.

Thanks to the effort of the Lakewood Veterans Memorial Project Committee, chaired by John Kikol, most of the project was finished in time for last week's ceremony. It was a struggle at times. Even Mayor Ed FitzGerald had some concerns that the group would be able to raise the money needed for the project, especially in such a difficult financial climate. But he and others had faith in the community and their belief was rewarded.

As FitzGerald later said, "... I underestimated the generos-

ity of this community." Those words rang true as the cost of the project mounted, along with donations.

More than \$42,000 was donated to the committee, not in-

cluding materials and labor. The project added new lighting, pavement, trees, benches and flags, as well as five granite monuments,

paying tribute to each branch of the service, around the existing center monument. That centerpiece contains the names of 335 Lakewood veterans.

Anyone who visits Lakewood Park is sure to be impressed with the new memorial area. The redesign offers greater visibility to the main monument, as well as a place for visitors to sit and reflect. Photos of the area can be seen on page B1 in today's paper.

Kudos to the hard-working committee members who made this project a reality. Also, thanks to those who made donations of time, supplies and cash. A grateful community appreciates your efforts.

EDITORIAL