

Honor Paid to Both Dead, Living:

Brookhaven Unveils Plaque

By Helen M. Ewing

BROOKHAVEN — In the Memorial day services here, honor was paid not only to the dead, but to the living, as a bronze plaque bearing the names of those who had served in the armed forces during World War II was dedicated.

Under the direction of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8137, the observances were orderly and impressive. Marching to the stirring music of the Bellport High school band, the parade proceeded from the firehouse along South Country road to the village triangle at Fireplace Neck road, where members of the community were gathered.

Participants in the parade were members of VFW Post 8137 led by Ralph B. Maust, post commander; color bearers Frederick Gillespie and Robert H. Lyons, Jr., and color guard Ralph P. Taylor and Benjamin Savage; members of VFW South Bay post and color guard; six-year-old David Zukowski in a replica of an army uniform; Cub Scouts accompanied by Mrs. Robert R. Ince and Mrs. Anthony B. Majestic; Brownies accompanied by Mrs. James Winters and Mrs. Irving Smith; Boy Scouts with Scoutmaster Robert M. Brown; Girl Scouts accompanied by Mrs. Raymond Rathkamp and Mrs. Phillip F. Champlain, chairman of Girl Scout Troop committee; children of Southaven school and their teacher, Mrs. Constance O'Shea; Brookhaven Fire department with color bearers Walter K. Cohrs and

Walter Zukowski and Brookhaven and Bellport Fire department apparatus and the Brookhaven ambulance.

With the members of the VFW taking their places within the triangle, and the other organizations grouped on two sides, Commander Maust announced that the program would be in two parts — dedication of the plaque and memorial services. Plans which had been in the making for some time, he said, had finally been completed and a bronze plaque would now take the place of the wooden honor roll.

In view of the fact that the Brookhaven Village association had underwritten the plaque, it was fitting that the president of the association, Alex Kosenkranus should address the gathering and he introduced Mr. Kosenkranus as "an untiring worker on behalf of the village and an honorable citizen in every sense of the word."

Mr. Kosenkranus said that the village association, as a group of civic-minded citizens, wished to honor the memory of those who had served their country and had not returned. "Their sacrifice, however, did not put an end to aggression, and we are still losing men in Korea," he said. "What this country needs," he continued, "is some honest-to-God statesmen and not politicians; some red-blooded Americans and not 'pinks'."

At a given command, the plaque, bearing the list of names of 79 men and women, was unveiled and the post chaplain, Maynard Bishop, read a Divine blessing

which was followed by a salute. Commander Maust, in a dignified and fitting message, expressed gratitude for the tasks which the bearers of those names had fulfilled and concluded by saying, "We, the members of VFW Post 8137, dedicate this plaque that all may see, and that their noble deeds may live forever."

Following the playing of the national anthem, and proceeding to the memorial service, Mr. Maust said, "As long as two comrades survive, tribute will be rendered to our heroic dead," and the post chaplain read the Scriptural passage, "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

Wreaths and sheafs of flowers of red, white and blue, were placed on the honor rolls of both World War I and World War II by Senior Vice Commander Frank S. Mills; Junior Vice Commander Ralph E. Taylor; the officer-of-the-day, Charles B. Foster; adjutant, Stanley Wnenta. Mr. Maust then asked for a silent tribute to departed comrades and the program closed with the clear notes of Taps sounding above the gathering, which remained quiet until the order for dismissal was given.

The plaque, which is beautifully cast in bronze, bears the following inscription, "Dedicated in honor of those of this village who answered the call of their country in World War II, 1941-1945." It is temporarily mounted now, but will be placed permanently in the near future. Five of the men listed on the plaque died in service.