

**PRODUCTION DATE**

8/19/08

**TIME**

10:40 AM

**LOCATION**

FRANCISCAN UNIV.

**Guest name:** Paul “Bud” Billiard

**Title:** Media and Public Relations person

**Organization:** Brooke County Veterans Memorial Park Foundation Inc.

**Web site:** <http://www.brookeveteranspark.org>

**Phone number:** 304-737-3669. Jimmy Lee. PO Box 470, Wellsburg, WV. 26070

**Geographic area served:** Tri State Area, Northern WV/Eastern Ohio/Western Pa.

**Who do you serve:** Brooke County.

**History of the organization. Organized and began, August, 2004**

The thought of memorializing Brooke county citizens lost while serving was discussed many years back.

In 2004 the loss of a young Marine, Michael J. Smith, created a concerned interest and awareness of a need for a memorial. This need inspired a group of Brooke County citizens, including his aunt Joan Nicholson.

A number of citizens organized, elected officers, Howard Armstrong president, constructed a charter and by laws under legal counseling, appointed committees, and began discussion, and conducted research on the project to memorialize those who gave all.

The organization adopted the title Brooke County Veterans Memorial Park Foundation, Inc. The Wellsburg City Park was initially selected as the site and an artist was employed to design the memorial.

Because of complications, the site had to be changed.

A site committee was formed and the result of their efforts was to move the site to Brooke Hills Park and joined in a partnership with the Brooke Hills Park administration and under the good wishes of the Brooke County commissioners.

During the interim period the organization experienced a number of changes including; officers, committee, procedures, and the employment of Heritage Architectural Associates, Wheeling, WV. headed by Steve Advakov. James R. “Jimmy” Lee was elected president and provided a new leadership and direction.

November 11, 2007, a ground breaking was held at Brooke Hills Park.

April 5, 2008, a dedication dinner dance was held commemorating the progress.

**OFFICERS:** President – Jimmy Lee  
Vice President – Nancy Strope  
Secretary – Barb Lewis  
Treasurer – Chuck Bell

**3 YEAR TERMS**

Nancy Strope  
Joan Nicholson  
Gene Camiletti  
Paul “Bud” Billiard  
Barb Lewis

## 2 YEAR TERM

Poke Beall  
Sue Simonetti  
Sharon Crabtree  
Bob Stuckey  
Tony Paesano

## 1 YEAR TERMS

Chuck Beall  
John Martino  
Jimmy Lee  
John Chernenko  
Larry Lauffer

## STANDING COMMITTEE

Public Relations – Bud Billiard  
Marketing – Poke Beall  
Legislation – John Chernenko  
By Laws – Chuck Bell  
Nominations – Joanie Nicholson  
Research – Gene Camilletti

## AD HOC COMMITTEE

Fund Raising – Nancy Strobe  
Finance committee – Jimmy Lee  
Membership – Sue Simonetti  
Veterans Advisory Committee – Robert Stuckey

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bud Billiard  
Poke Beall                      Silent Campaign  
Chuck Bell  
Tim Williams

Jim Lee  
Larry Lauffer  
John Chernenko              Grants  
Tim Williams  
Steve Advakov

A project team has been organized comprised of:

Heritage Architectural Associates

Steve Advakov Team Leader

Cabe Hays and Phil Cole, Hays Landscape Architects

Ken Blanton, Cost estimator

David John Mega , Artist. ( Mega National Galleries).

Brooke County Memorial Park Foundation, Inc.

Jim Lee

Poke Beall

Chuck Bell

Paul “Bud” Billiard

Larry Lauffer

Tim Williams, Consultant

Brooke Hills Park

Janice McFadden, Director

Walter Ferguson

Kenny Fletcher

Brooke County Commission

Marty Bartz, Commissioner

Surveyor

Gary Bullock, Bullock and Associates

A new design is being completed and various committees are working to begin construction and the earliest possible date.

The project has been expanded from the memorial foundation constructing a memorial for those who gave all to adding an amphitheater honoring all Brooke county citizens who served. Sponsored by Brooke Hills Park, the amphitheater will have a covered stage with pavilion and wall of honor.

The project will be constructed in phases. The body is projected be the 1<sup>st</sup> phase for completion.

The memorial has 3 concepts.

**BODY** – Represented by the Body of the combat soldier cast in bronze.

**MIND** – Five red granite tablets, representing the various armed forces, inscribed in remembrance of those who gave their all for their country. This insures they will live on in the hearts and minds of the community.

**SPIRIT** – The Spirit of our nation as well as the Spirit of our fallen heroes is represented in the stainless steel folded American Flag – (resting on a polished black granite base).

The organization has illustrated an outstanding ability to work. It has organized and conducted several events to raise needed funds to get the project leading to the 1<sup>st</sup>. phase.

The major fund raising program has been initiated and donations are being submitted and accepted.

For anyone interested in supporting this project, donations are being accepted and are to be made out to the Brooke County Memorial Park Foundation, Inc. and sent to Jimmy Lee, c/o The Foundation @ P.O. Box 470, Wellsburg, WV 26070. For more information call 304-737-3669.