

**LOCAL**

# Plans continue for memorial honoring war on terror veterans

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Organizers are planning to break ground this spring on a memorial to honor armed service members who lost their lives in the global war on terror.

The Patriot Park Foundation is also working to bring a moving Vietnam memorial to the Somerset County location along Lincoln Highway in Stonycreek Township.

The foundation has a parcel of land across from the Flight 93 National Memorial, the location of the first battle of the global war on terror, board President Randy Musser said.

The Flight 93 memorial honors the 40 passengers and crew members who died when Flight 93 crashed on 9/11 on the ground that is now the memorial.

Musser said the plan is to start construction on stage 1 in the spring. The first phase will cost about \$175,000, which will be funded with donations.

Musser said that he and his brother have donated the land, Berkey Excavating, Boswell, has agreed to donate for road construction and parking and Corsa Coals, Friedens, agreed to donate materials.

He said that the first phase will include a pavilion. Inside the pavilion 7,000 military dog tags will hang from



Staff photo by Michelle Ganassi

Patriot Park Foundation Treasurer Clair Gill, President Randy Musser, Secretary Donald Newman and board member Pat Terlingo look at plans for the first phase of the Patriot Park memorial, a project honoring those who served in the global war on terror.

the ceiling, representing the 7,000 lives lost in the war on terror.

“We think it would be a moving tribute,” he said. Musser said that the group is working on names for the pavilion. Anyone

with a suggestion is asked to email patriotparkfoundation@gmail.com.

“It needs to have a fitting name,” he said.

Musser said their work is also focused on networking.

“People have stepped up to the plate,” board member Pat Terlingo said.

Terlingo said that last year, when he was still a Somerset County commissioner, the group went to the commissioners and asked for an endorsement for the project. He said they will continue to ask groups, such as the commissioners, for their endorsement. They are also working with state and federal lawmakers.

The group has submitted an application to host the Vietnam Memorial Wall that Heals, a traveling version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Treasurer Clair Gill said the group will need to raise \$10,000 to host the traveling memorial. He said it was in Bedford last summer.

“I think this is a great way to kick off and introduce our memorial,” he said.

He said the group will need volunteers to help with setting up the memorial, and Vietnam veterans to serve as docents or guides.

For more information on the project visit patriotparkmemorial.org.