

Search

Melrose  46° subscribe | find and save | newsletter

**WICKED LOCAL MELROSE**  
NEWS FROM THE MELROSE FREE PRESS



Your future starts here.  
VISIT **MSLAW.EDU**

**HOME NEWS BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT LIFESTYLE OPINION OBITS CLASSIFIEDS JOBS CARS HOMES**

FEATURED » CONTACT US BLOGS PHOTOS VIDEOS GAMES SUBMIT YOUR NEWS POLICE SCANNER BRANDED CONTENT BUSINESS PROFILES

**NEWS NOW** use man lit car on fire ... ALBUM CAPSULE: David Corley, 'Available Light' ...

Record Drama Club cast to put on 'Mulan Jr.'

ADVERTISEMENT

# Melrose honors women vets with tree dedication



30 Child Actors Who Tragically Died Young



COMMENT 0 Log In



Ryan McLane, District Director of Veteran Services for Melrose, Wakefield and Saugus, addresses the crowd during a Veterans Day and women's service tree dedication Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Melrose City Hall. The tree planted was a Magnolia virginiana. Wicked Local Staff Photo / Nicole Goodhue Boyd

**MELROSE**  
**NORWELL**  
**BOSTON**  
**CAMBRIDGE**  
**BROOKLINE**  
**WELLESLEY**

[www.marathonsports.com](http://www.marathonsports.com)



With a home equity line of credit you can do your own home makeover.

Variable rates start at 3.74% APR [Learn More](#)

**tiaa direct**  
TIAA-CREF Trust Company, FSB

C17919F

By **Jessica Sacco** / [jsacco@wickedlocal.com](mailto:jsacco@wickedlocal.com)  
Posted Nov. 12, 2014 @ 6:37 pm

MELROSE

Servicewomen received a special honor this Veterans Day with the dedication of their own memorial tree in front of City Hall.

Residents, along with city and state officials, gathered on Main Street on Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. for a ceremony to honor women veterans, several of which were present in the audience.

Attendees surrounded Melrose's newest

monument, a Magnolia virginiana tree devoted to women that served and sacrificed in the U.S. Armed Forces. The Melrose Garden Club purchased and installed the tree, which is accompanied by a black granite marker.

Several women from the Hanscom Air Force Base on active duty joined residents during the tree dedication. Robert Fuller, a World War II veteran and Chaplain of the Lt. Norman Prince VFW post, opened the ceremony with a prayer.

Ryan McLane, district director of veteran services for Melrose, Wakefield and Saugus, recognized U.S. Navy veteran Chet Stentiford, who served as inspiration for the tree.

“His idea was to install a women’s service tree — a permanent memorial that would mark in every city and town, a place for women who served in the military to gather, hold their ceremonies and to visit when they wanted to reflect on their service and their sacrifice,” McLane said.

Melrose’s Magnolia virginiana is expected to grow to about 30 to 35 feet high, sprouting white flowers, red berries and producing a vanilla-like scent.

Location of the memorial came after much deliberation between city officials.

“The debate surrounded, where would it be best served?” McLane explained. “Where would it have the most prominence? Where would it inspire future generations, not necessarily to serve in the military, but to serve their community in the ways women veterans have?”

Eventually Melrose leaders landed on City Hall, given that it’s prominently located on Main Street and often visited by a myriad of residents.

**Women speakers**

Three Melrose veterans shared their appreciation for a women’s monument in the city.

The first speaker, Esther Parsons, served as a nurse in U.S. Army during World War II. She told the crowd the monument reminds her not only of the women who put on their uniform and served their country, but of another army: an army of women who stayed behind to serve families and communities.

“They kept everything going,” she said. “They worked the farms, the ranches. They provided food. They transported it to market. They did everything behind the scenes to keep the nation going. I salute you, the women left behind.”

Maryalice Leach was a World War II U.S. Navy WAVE. Otherwise known as “Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service,” the division in the U.S. Navy was established in the 1940s.

Leach is also a 50-year member of the Melrose Garden Club, who she thanked for their choice in tree.

“At first I thought that was a little weird,” she said. “And then I thought, no. Trees are strong and resilient and so are women.”

In the military, Leach continued, there was no job women couldn’t perform, which she said is still true today.

“I’m glad to say that they can go to the highest echelons now and we’re very proud of them,” Leach said. “And as an old timer, we say, well done.”

Alicia Reddin, a U.S. Navy veteran who served during the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts, said a tree, like the city’s Magnolia virginiana, is a symbol of immense and enduring strength, which embodies protection, stability and security. All of this, she added, can be said of the American veteran.

“I encourage everyone to revisit this site and to sit under this tree,” Reddin said. “And spend some time reflecting and allow yourself to be consumed by the gravity of what it truly represents for women everywhere.”

**Vietnam**

Veterans and residents then made their way to the Vietnam memorial on Main Street, in front of Ell Pond.



**» STAY INFORMED**

Email  
NewsLetter

Sign Up Today

Sign up for our newsletter and have the top headlines from your community delivered right to your inbox.



- [Sen. McCaskill: No to Reid as Minority Leader](#)
- [‘I Killed JFK’: Newsmax TV World Premiere](#)
- [Huckabee May Lose Fox News Show](#)
- [Steve Forbes Slams the Fed in This Video](#)
- [‘Godfather’ Mansion on Sale for \\$3 Million](#)
- [American Homeowners Are in for an Extremely Big Surprise](#)
- [Brand New Sleep-Aid Takes CVS by Storm](#)
- [Reverse Mortgages - Disadvantages and Advantages](#)

[What's This?](#)

**TOP CLICKS**

POPULAR EMAILED COMMENTED

[Search for Swampscott mom continues; 2nd woman found](#) Nov. 9, 2014

[SNEAK PREVIEW: Movies opening this week](#) Nov. 13, 2014

[Crystal Bowersox moving beyond American Idol](#) Nov. 7, 2014

[Rapper TI, 'King of the South,' expands his kingdom](#) Nov. 9, 2014

[Granlund cartoon: GOP wrecking balls](#) Nov. 11, 2014

[Homemade Pizza Night Recipes](#) Nov. 9, 2014

**» EVENTS CALENDAR**

Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed

11/13 12:00 am [Agricultural Calendar Photo Contest](#)

11/13 12:00 am [Registration for Newton Community](#)

11/13 12:00 am [New Women's Wednesday Morning](#)

11/13 12:00 am [Karaoke at Cabby Shack](#)

[More Events »](#)

[Add Events »](#)

Events

Venues

Dining

All

Events by [eviesays.com](#)

"The Vietnam veterans and their fight to make sure that we had the benefits that we have, has allowed my life to have a high quality," McLane said, "And I appreciate my brothers who served during the Vietnam War more than I could say here, in front of a memorial."

Mike Nocito, a U.S. Air Force Vietnam veteran, led the group in a prayer.

McLane also explained that while Memorial Day is a day to remember the fallen, Veterans Day is the day to honor all those who've served in the U.S. armed forces.

### World War I

The last stop of the day's events brought Melrosians to the World War I monument at the Knoll on Lynn Fells Parkway.

"Veterans Day, which has a long and convoluted history, originally started as Armistice Day, which was the end of World War I," McLane said. "Which is fitting, since this is our city's World War I memorial."

Joe McKean, Commander of the VFW Harold O. Young Post #2394, read a prayer, followed by a speech from Air Force Maj. Bob Driscoll, who is also the chairman of the Melrose Veterans Advisory Board.

Driscoll explained what it means to serve in the armed forces and thanked all those who took the oath and made the commitment.

[» Comment or view comments](#)

### » SUGGESTED STORIES

Melrose author will be AAUW speaker [Melrose Free Press - Melrose, MA](#)

Pups take part in Dog Society Howl-o-ween [Melrose Free Press - Melrose, MA](#)

Melrose volleyball team bumped off by Weston in Division 2 North Semifinals [Melrose Free Press - Melrose, MA](#)

Melrose swim team rides wave of success [Melrose Free Press - Melrose, MA](#)

Rep. Brodeur sits on elder services commission [Melrose Free Press - Melrose, MA](#)

### » FROM AROUND THE WEB

25 Hottest Female Athletes You Can Be Thankful For In 2014 [RantSports](#)

10 Times Stephen A. Smith Should've Kept His Opinions To Himself [RantSports](#)

FSU sorority girl pulls awesome move on the football field [SportingNews](#)

UGA Commit Wants To Take Visits [Scout.com](#)

13 Athletes Who Are Just As Guilty As Ray Rice [StyleBlazer](#)

Recommended by

### » Popular Articles and Offers



Odd Trick "Fights" Diabetes...



New Site Exposes Anyone! So addicting



40 Hottest Female Celebrity Bodies of All Time



Top 10 Richest Women In The World

### ADVERTISEMENT



Netflix Reveals Premiere Date, New Teaser for Season 2 of The Fall

**BOSTON**

Starting From Starting From

**SKOPJE 540 USD**

**TURKISH AIRLINES**

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Login with:

0 Comments powered by:



Write your comment here

- Record video
- Upload video
- Upload image
- Submit

Follow

Newest

There are no comments yet.

**FIND BETTER TALENT. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.**

Job Title  Location

**GET STARTED** >

Connect with Melrose Free Press

- Facebook
- Twitter
- RSS
- Back to top

Site Services

- Work for Us
- Subscribe
- Ads
- Submit Your News
- Archives
- Terms of Use
- Contact Us

Market Place

- Homes
- New & Used Cars for Sale
- Classifieds
- Coupons

City of Melrose info

- City of Melrose
- Melrose Public Schools
- Melrose Police
- Department
- Melrose Fire
- Department
- Melrose Chamber of Commerce

Resources

- Facebook: Subscribe to our feed
- Twitter: Subscribe to our feed
- GateHouse Media Inc.

Stay Informed

Email newsletter Sign Up Today

Sign up for our newsletter and have the top headlines from your community delivered right to your inbox.

Your privacy is important, read our privacy policy.

Wicked Local Media Solutions Propel Marketing More Content Now BestRide Find&Save

© Copyright 2006-2014 Gatehouse Media, Inc. Some rights reserved Privacy Policy | Terms of Service | Gatehouse Media Publications Original content available for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons license, except where noted. Melrose Free Press | 75 Sylvan Street, C 105, Danvers, MA 01923