

Projects and Association Initiatives

Rough Rider Signage

“Welcome to Aledo – Home of Roosevelt Military Academy”

Association members want a historic sign for the city of Aledo which would be erected inside the city limits and welcome visitors to:

“Aledo, Illinois the home of the Rough Riders from Roosevelt Military Academy - 1931 through 1973 for 3059 Cadets”.

Stephen Moller the Director of Aledo Public Works has volunteered his time to work Jerry Shirk, class of 1971 to complete the paperwork to have a sign created from the State of Illinois.

Project Manager Jerry Shirk, class of 1972 is leading this project.

Rough Rider Memorial

The City Council has approved this project that Ronn Jutkins has been developing. The City of Aledo would like to schedule ***a “ground breaking” ceremony in Aledo on Saturday August 18th in Central Park*** marking the location where the Rough Rider Memorial will be built.

Ronn presented a proposal to the city and has maintained a dialogue with the City Administrator Terry Dove and City Clerk Jarod Dale and the council unanimously supported Ronn’s project for a 20 foot tall, bronze statue.

The Mayor and City Council discussed Central Park with Ronn and he has been working on this project since 2002. This monument will tell a story on the granite base. For example, one side will be Roosevelt’s famous address on the “man in the arena”, another side will have the RMA Flag and the remaining sides will reflect parade formations, the Administration building and the names of cadets who wish to donate to the construction, etc.

Ronn is seeking assisting from other cadets for other projects in line with this wonderful RMA Statue.

Preserving the Roosevelt Tree

This project is taking on a different direction than originally conceived. The change is primarily a result of the Association and Engineers who have determined that the likelihood of converting the remaining property into a Roosevelt Park and obtaining Federal Grants is beyond the scope and resources.

However, working to preserve the Roosevelt Tree that was planted in the late 1930's still has merit. Our Roosevelt Tree has the potential to offer the City of Aledo a revenue opportunity by having "saplings" and "acorns" from that tree sold. The Association needs a volunteer to work on this project with the Director of Economic Development to preserve the Roosevelt Tree and provide Roosevelt Military Academy a place in history through a national organization such as "Friends of the Rough Riders".

Organizing videos, photos, CD and DVD:

The Association needs the services of someone who will lead the effort as Chairman of the Media committee. We have speeches from Colonel Glen Millikan on six CD's of commencements addresses that are each about five minutes long and recruiting film on DVD that is black and white with a running time of 15 minutes. The DVD is currently silent with no sound and they are from campus life that was used for recruiting. We would like to do a voice-over of what is on screen, and maybe use some of the speeches from Col. Millikan and create finished product out of it.

We also have a record of the administration building being razed which may be included along with reunion photos and the Association needs a volunteer who has the time to help us assemble these bits of history for the Museum Achieve in Mercer County. Please volunteer.

PROJECTS CLOSED:

- **Legal Assistance Required**
- **Converting Campus to Roosevelt Park Project - Joint Project**

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