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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**MISHAWAKA ANNOUNCES RIBBON CUTTING
CEREMONY FOR HONOR PARK**

The City is conducting a brief ribbon cutting ceremony at Honor Park, Normandy Drive, on Wednesday, May 20th at 9:30am to celebrate the recent renovation of this Veteran Memorial.

Honor Park was first conceived in the late 1940s as a memorial to a soldier who had died during World War II. An engraved stone was initially placed at the park location. When the stone became broken, a new concept for a memorial was designed. In 1997, the interim City Planner, Bill Schalliol, envisioned the use of four actual artillery shells from the Military Honor Park being built at the South Bend Regional Airport. The shells are the largest shells shot from guns on military ships, much like those aboard the U.S. Massachusetts in Missouri. This second monument was dedicated in August, 1997.

In 2000, the City of Mishawaka reconstructed the streets around Honor Park and the surrounding neighborhood. This provided an opportunity to redesign the landscape for the monument. City Landscape Supervisor, Rick Springer, submitted a design using the same shells from the previous memorial. The shells were mounted in cement blocks for stability and painted all back with gold tips. The color scheme chosen for the shells is symbolic of a "live shell". The shells, in reality, were never used in World War II, except for practice, and were disarmed prior to being donated in 1997.

Normain Heights, the neighborhood surrounding Honor Park, was one of the first housing communities built in the area after World War II. It was specifically built to provide housing for returning World War II veterans.

In 2014, Councilman at Large, Dan Bilancio noticed that the Park was beginning to look worn and tired. Dan knew what an important memorial this was to this neighborhood and started the campaign to get some much needed work done in this park. With the help of Park Superintendent, Terry Zeller, Honor Park was given a face lift and paving bricks already in storage at the 5th Street Recycling Center, were installed by Ross Masonry of Mishawaka. This was the perfect solution to the worn and patchy grass and weeds growing all around the Park. This work would be a lasting and perpetual way to keep Honor Park memorialized.

The renovation and clean-up of the Park has been completed and now is the time to rededicate Honor Park, just before Memorial Day, back to the veterans of the City of Mishawaka and surrounding neighborhood.