

Center for Older Adults
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HONOR VETERANS WITH COMMEMORATIVE BRICK IN VETERANS MEMORIAL GARDEN

Army Specialist Zach Myers of Delaware was just 21 when he died in Iraq, but Brenda Durfey remembers the spirited young man each time she walks in the Veterans Memorial Garden in Delaware, where she and her family purchased a commemorative brick engraved with his name.

Zach is one of four relatives that Durfey and her family have honored with commemorative bricks. This fall, a fifth brick will be added to memorialize Durfey’s father, who served in the Ohio National Guard. Durfey urges others to pay tribute to their relatives and friends in the same way.

Any bricks purchased before Sept. 16 will be installed in time for the Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 11 at the Center for Older Adults in the Veterans Memorial Garden. The garden is supported by funding from the Raymond B. Austin American Legion Post 115.

“It’s a wonderful way for people to show how proud they are of their family member’s service,” said Durfey, an outreach assistant at the Council for Older Adults.

A brick costs \$80. Each brick is engraved with up to 3 lines of text, each containing up to 13 characters (including spaces and punctuation) to remember the veteran’s name, branch of service, dates or other information. It will be placed in the garden, located in the oval at the entrance to the Center for Older Adults, 800 Cheshire Road in Delaware.

“The memorial serves as a continuous reminder of all U.S. veterans, both living and deceased, who have made such a great sacrifice by serving our country,” said Joan Hatcher, arts and education director at the center.

To purchase a brick, call (740) 203-2410 or visit www.centerforolderadults.com. To date, 246 bricks have been sold. The newest additions to the garden will be listed in the Veterans Day program, said Hatcher, who is coordinating the ceremony that will mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Durfey will attend the ceremony and will stroll through the garden to thank Zach, her father, stepfather, uncle and stepbrother. “They all served in the military for our sake,” she said. “It makes you feel good that there’s a place out there where people can see their names.”

Senior Citizens Inc., located at the Center for Older Adults, 800 Cheshire Rd. in Delaware, offers opportunities for adults age 55 and over to participate in motivating activities through education, recreation, socialization, volunteerism, exercise and wellness, which encourages older adults to remain a vital part of our community.