

History of the Field of Flags

The “Field of Flags” was dedicated on Sunday, October 23, 2005 at the Somers Congregational Church in Somers, Connecticut. Members of the Memorial Garden Committee of the Somers Congregational Church placed 2,231 American flags, one for each American casualty in Iraq and Afghanistan. The flags were placed to honor those who have given their lives in the conflicts and to show that those who have died and their families and friends were remembered in prayer at our church.

The list of casualties, by state, was displayed on a name board by the Field of Flags showing the name and rank of each American casualty. A notebook was kept in the church building with the name, rank, town, state and date of death for each American casualty.

The idea for the Field of Flags came about as members of the Memorial Garden Committee considered what our church could do to show support for our troops. Each casualty reminded us of the danger and increased the empathy we felt for the families of those who have died.

The Field of Flags had more impact than the committee envisioned with the media coverage and the emotional reaction from our community and beyond. People came from towns across the state and out of state to see the flags and view the name board. Individuals and families have found the display to be emotional, yet comforting to know that their loved ones have been remembered.

The Field of Flags is a silent, patriotic and poignant reminder of the cost of war. Each flag represents not simply one casualty, but all the family members and friends who have been touched by that life now gone. They represent our respect for those who have served and are currently serving in the military and our hope for peace in the future, for a time when no one is called upon by our country to give the greatest sacrifice. Please continue to pray for the safety of all of our troops and for the families of the fallen heroes.

Churches that are interested in having the Field of Flags can call the church office at the Somers Congregational Church, Somers, Connecticut at (860) 763-4021. Members of the Memorial Garden Committee will bring the flags and the name board to your church and assist in setting up the Field of Flags.

Locations

October 23, 2005 – September 10, 2008

Somers Congregational Church, Somers, Connecticut
October 23, 2005, 2,231 flags

Providence Phebyterian Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
December 21, 2005, 2,426 flags

Freedom Fest, Virginia Beach, Virginia
April 29, 2006, 2,655 flags

The Congregational Church of Somersville, Somersville, Connecticut
May 25, 2006, 2,754 flags

Westchester Congregational Church, Colchester, Connecticut
July 8, 2006, 2,857 flags

Outer Banks Phesbyterian Church, Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina
August 20, 2006, 2,934 flags

Harvest Assmebly of God, Chesapeake, Virginia
November 4, 2006, 3,156 flags

Providence Phesbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
December 20, 2006, 3,287 flags

Conyngham United Methodist Church, Conyngham, Pennsylvania
March 24, 2007, 3,592 flags

The Congregational Church of Somersville, Somersville, Connecticut
May 24, 2007, 3,811 flags

St. Joseph Oblate Seminary, Pittston, Pennsylvania
July 12, 2007, 4,018 flags

St. Mark Lutheran Church, Elysburg, Pennsylvania
August 23, 2007, 4,129 flags

Gaylordsville United Methodist Church, New Milford, Connecticut
September 21, 2007, 4,224 flags

Union United Methodist Church, Bridgeville, Delaware
November 8, 2007, 4,310 flags

First United Church of Tampa, Tampa, Florida
January 5, 2008, 4,373 flags

Clearview United Methodist Church, St. Petersburg, Florida
February 11, 2008, 4,428 flags

Christ Congregational Church, Miami, Florida
March 10, 2008, 4,454 flags

First Congregational Church, Ridgefield, Connecticut
May 16, 2008, 4,576 flags

Congregational Church of Easton, Easton, Connecticut
July 13, 2008, 4,658 flags

Congregational Church of New Fairfield, New Fairfield, Connecticut
August 14, 2008, 4,708 flags

**First Church of Christ Congregational, Clinton, Connecticut
September 10, 2008, 4,741 flags**

[two cameras viewable live on www.BoundlessSecurity.com/handheld.html, Sept. 15 – Oct. 4]



**Field of Flags, Clinton, CT
Sept. 17, 2008**



**Field of Flags Names Board, Clinton, CT
Sept. 17, 2008**

Ivoryton Congregational Church, Ivoryton, Connecticut
October 11, 2008

The Congregational Church of Somersville, Somersville, Connecticut
November 8, 2008

Providence Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia