

John C. Ackerman

Tazewell County Board

Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service

August 24th, 2009

***** Press Release *****

[Village of Mackinaw Veteran's Memorial](#)

Tonight I had the privilege of witnessing a truly selfless act. As you will recall, I attended the Village of Mackinaw Trustee Meeting tonight as part of my District Three Municipal Visits. Tazewell County Board Members Russ Crawford and Paul Hahn joined me at the meeting.

As part of the public comments portion of the agenda, the Mackinaw American Legion gave an update as to the progress of the new Village of Mackinaw Veteran's Memorial, which when completed will be located in Veteran's Park across from the soon-to-open IGA. When finished, the memorial will honor all Veterans of all wars.

The total cost for the project is projected at \$20,000, of which they hope to earn \$15,000 from the sale of engraved brick pavers. Each engraved paver is \$50 and 120 of the 200 pavers needed have been sold already. That left \$5,000 in order to make this project happen. Jim Wheat of the Mackinaw American Legion asked the village if they would be interested in helping with this cost.

At this point in the meeting, my good friend and fellow Tazewell County Board Member Paul Hahn (who along with his wife is the owner of Mackinaw Valley Vineyard and Water Street Wines, Cafe and Coffees) interrupted the meeting by stating that he would cover \$2,500 of the \$5,000 needed if the Village of Mackinaw would cover the other half. Quickly the Village voted and approved the proposal.

In another act of charity, the landscaping firm that was chosen to build this monument, Beal Landscaping of Mapleton, has donated 15% of the cost of the project.

Bricks are still available, and I encourage anyone interest to contact Jim Wheat at wheatjj@comcast.net or call (309) 202-4881. Also check out their website at www.MackinawAmericanLegion.com.

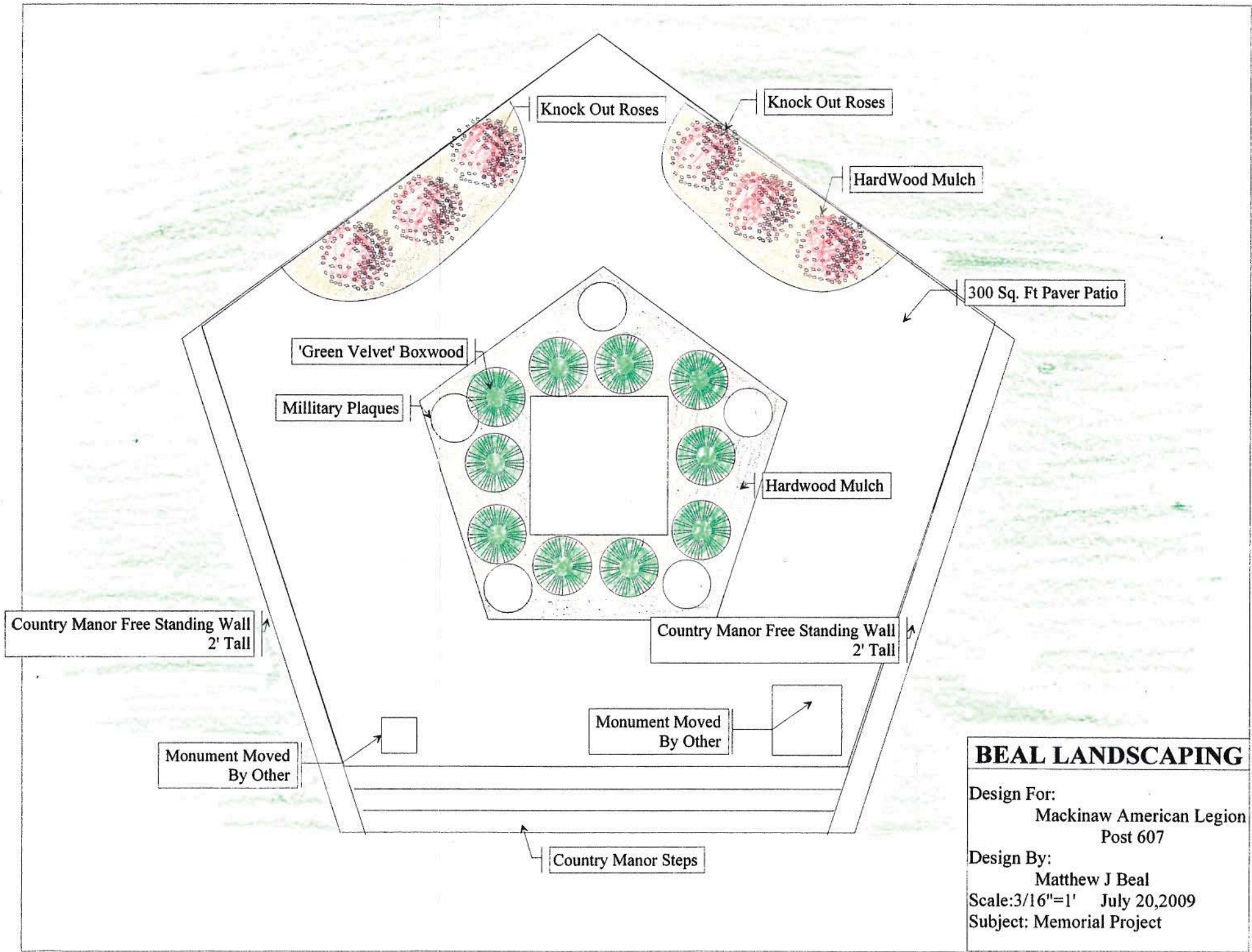
The project is scheduled to break ground in early to mid-October and a Dedication Ceremony will take place on November 11th, 2009 (Armistice Day).

More information including a drawing of what the memorial will look like will be available on the website tomorrow afternoon under the "In the News" tab.

Paul Hahn and his wife along with Jim Wheat, the members of the Mackinaw American Legion, and the leaders of the Village of Mackinaw should be congratulated and thanked for making this Memorial to the brave men and women that have made the supreme sacrifice to give us our freedom a reality. We can never build enough monuments and thank each and every one of them enough for the freedoms we all enjoy each and every day.

As always, I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve you on the Tazewell County Board and if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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BEAL LANDSCAPING

Design For:
 Mackinaw American Legion
 Post 607

Design By:
 Matthew J Beal
 Scale: 3/16"=1' July 20, 2009
 Subject: Memorial Project