

## **Northern Illinois Veterans Activities Committee History (as of 05-10-2007)**

The Greater Kirkland Area Chamber of Commerce had a magnificent plan of a future veteran monument to be built in Kirkland. The Northern Illinois Veterans Memorial (NIVM) monument was built in the spring of 1991.

**The Northern Illinois Veterans Activities Committee (NIVAC) was formed in September of 1990 with six charter members and three basic goals.**

1. To help dedicate the NIVM in Kirkland.
2. To help coordinate area Memorial Day activities annually.
3. To promote more interaction with veterans and our communities.

NIVAC assisted with the groundbreaking of the NIVM in Dec. 1990, helped display the Moving Wall in Kirkland for Memorial Weekend 1991 with the help of the DeKalb County Chapter of VietNow, assisted the Genoa Veterans Home with the 1991 Memorial Day Parade and assisted with the dedication of the NIVM in May 1991. (goal 1 achieved)

NIVAC has promoted Memorial Weekend every year. (goal 2 achieved)

NIVAC promoted the Breakfast with the General in 1992 and was renamed the Mayors' Memorial Day Breakfast in 1994. (goal 3 achieved)

Other NIVAC special projects have included, gathering new names for the NIVM, placement of POW\*MIA signs (jointly over 100 signs were placed), building a POW\*MIA monument and ceremony area in Genoa, assisting an injured veteran to adapt his house for handicapped access, assisting in placing large American flags in three locations (Genoa 100, Kirkland 35, DeKalb County Courthouse 100 additional flags), coordinating a veterans appreciation day at NIU, assisted with various 4<sup>th</sup> of July events, coordinates to get a keynote military VIP speaker each year, coordinated with the Illinois National Guard to have the 105mm howitzer many times, various other activities, coordinated the DeKalb County Courthouse flag ceremony protocol, and in 2005 assisting to add 10 more flags in Kirkland.

**NIVAC continues to promote memorial weekend and the Mayors' Memorial Day Breakfast every year as well as other activities. Breakfast attendance as listed.**

1992 attendance was about	25 people.	(Spring Garden II, Sycamore)
1993 attendance was about	65 people.	(National Guard Armory, Sycamore)
1994 attendance was about	60 people.	(Matthew Boone's, DeKalb)
1995 attendance was about	75 people.	(University Inn, DeKalb)
1996 attendance was about	80 people.	(Carls Fargo, Sycamore)
1997 attendance was about	80 people.	(Carls Fargo, Sycamore)
1998 attendance was about	80 people.	(Eduardos, DeKalb)
1999 attendance was about	100 people.	(Eduardos, DeKalb)
2000 attendance was about	100 people.	Sophies Bar & Grill, Sycamore)
2001 attendance was about	130 people.	(South Pointe Centre, DeKalb)
2002 attendance was about	140 people.	(Carls Fargo, Sycamore)
2003 attendance was about	115 people.	(Carls Fargo, Sycamore)
2004 attendance was about	142 people.	(Carls Fargo, Sycamore)
2005 attendance was about	155 people.	(Carls Fargo, Sycamore)
2006 attendance was about	154 people.	(Carls Fargo, Sycamore)
2007 attendance expected at	140 or more people.	(Carls Fargo, Sycamore)