

## Memorial Hall

In February, 1947, Pleasantville American Legion, Post 108, purchased the lot where Memorial Hall now stands. The first organizational meeting to plan construction of the new building was held in July, 1947. Construction began in 1949. The cost of the Hall was raised using various means by the citizens of the Pleasantville area. Much of the funding was provided by the men of Post 108. Though only partially finished, the first meeting held in the new building by the American Legion was in 1951. The dedication of Webb Shadle Memorial library was held on March 13, 1955 on the first floor of the Hall and was a major community event and is considered to be the official celebration of the completed structure.

In 2006, Pleasantville American Legion members began to notice areas of wear and tear of the Memorial Hall building. What started out to be minor repairs became areas of dire need, especially in the roof and foundation. Repairs, once started, left nowhere to stop until the entire building was renovated. Again, Legion members were able to do most of the labor and again citizens were willing to help with the financing. Fortunately, there was a person in the American Legion that had helped with the original construction, Leland Vander Linden. With Leland directing renovation and Gordan Mecham managing the man power and funds, it became a success story. The last piece of the puzzle was refinishing the first floor, which was completed in February, 2018.



The original idea of Memorial Hall was to have a place to honor all of our veterans, especially our hometown heroes. Memorial Hall is now home to over 600 military honor plaques that cover the walls of the top floor. They include anyone from the area that has served in the military. It is quite a sight to see and an incredible amount of research and time has gone into making this display one of the best around.





If you know someone from the area that is not on the wall already and would like them to be added to our wall, please contact Dennis Murphy at 515-250-5153.

The Hall is also open year round and serves in many different capacities for the community including rentals for weddings, birthday parties, family events, you name it! It is also home to the Pleasantville Mat Club wrestling program from November - January. If you have questions on renting the Hall, please contact City Hall at 515-848-3316.

