

Dear Mayor and Board of Aldermen,

We are writing to respectfully request the City of Jackson's support in funding additional lighting for the Veterans Memorial located at Brookside Park. This improvement is both a practical necessity and an important step in preserving a meaningful tradition of honoring our local veterans.

Currently, the memorial does not have adequate lighting to allow flags to be displayed overnight in accordance with the United States Flag Code. As a result, volunteers must deploy and retrieve flags each day during holidays, limiting display time to roughly 10 hours and requiring a significant amount of labor within a short window. This has become increasingly difficult as membership in our local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post and auxiliary continues to decline with age, and we rely more on community volunteers.

Installing proper lighting, at an estimated cost of \$20,000, would allow flags to remain displayed throughout entire holiday periods, including overnight, in a respectful and compliant manner. It would also greatly reduce the burden on volunteers, improve the visibility and safety of the memorial for descendants of the honored veterans and the public, and ensure this important community tradition can continue for years to come.

The Brookside Park Veterans Memorial exists today because of the generosity and vision of Gwen Winningham, who donated the land in the early 1990s. With the support of the Park Board, the VFW, and its auxiliary, the site was developed into a place of remembrance where flags are flown in honor of deceased veterans from our community. This tradition remains deeply meaningful to many families in Jackson.

This proposal is a one-time capital improvement with decades of community return. The VFW and its volunteers will continue to care for the memorial as they have historically. This investment allows the memorial to better serve its purpose while preserving a long-standing community tradition of honoring our veterans.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this project further or provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jackson Memorial VFW Post 10495

Contacts:

Lucas Green, VFW Junior Vice-Commander 573.433.5884

Art Woods, Memorial Caretaker 573.450.8277

## **Brookside Park Veterans Memorial Lighting Proposal**

### **Purpose & Need**

The Brookside Park Veterans Memorial serves as a place of honor for local veterans of **ALL WARS**, where flags are displayed in remembrance of those who served. However, current lighting is insufficient to properly illuminate the flags overnight. Under the United States Flag Code, flags may only be displayed at night if properly illuminated.

Because of this limitation:

- Flags must be displayed and stored daily during holidays
- Display time is limited to approximately 10 hours per day
- Volunteers are required to complete all work within a short time frame

### **Proposed Solution**

Install additional lighting at the memorial.

- Estimated Cost: \$15,000 - \$20,000 + City Labor
- Benefits:
  - Allows flags to remain displayed overnight in compliance with the Flag Code
  - Enables continuous display throughout entire holiday periods
  - Improves visibility, safety, and overall presentation while offering descendants more time to come see them.

### **Community Impact**

The local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post and auxiliary have historically maintained the memorial. As membership declines, fewer volunteers are available to carry out these responsibilities.

Improved lighting will:

- Support long-term sustainability of the memorial
- Reduce reliance on a shrinking volunteer base
- Encourage broader community involvement
- Enhance the park as a visible symbol of patriotism
- Allows decades of continued displays and remembrance

### **Historical Background**

The memorial at Brookside Park was established around 1992 on land donated by Gwen Winningham. Initially, a single flag was installed. The Jackson Park Board later recommended the development of a formal veteran's memorial.

With the support of the Jackson VFW and its auxiliary—reformed specifically for this purpose, the site was expanded into a dedicated memorial. Soon after, the tradition began of flying flags in honor of deceased local veterans, which continues today. When constructed it was 1 of 10 memorials to All Wars nationwide.

### **About Gwen Winningham**

Gwen Winningham was a local business owner and community supporter whose appreciation for veterans inspired the creation of the Brookside Park memorial. She owned the Brookside Motel and a local drive-in theater and played an active role in the Jackson community. During World War II, she worked with the Red Cross in London and married a logistics officer serving there. Her experiences shaped her lifelong commitment to honoring veterans, which she made possible through her donation of land for the memorial.

### **Conclusion**

This project represents a modest investment with lasting impact. Improved lighting will ensure the memorial continues to honor veterans properly, preserve an important local tradition, and support the volunteers who maintain it.

An investment in this project is an investment in respect, remembrance, and community.



<b>Materials</b>	<b>QTY</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Extended</b>
Fiberglass Light Pole 28'	5	\$2,100.00	\$10,500.00
BUL3	1	\$110.00	\$110.00
BUL2	7	\$95.00	\$665.00
LED Lights	17	\$169.00	\$2,873.00
Pencil 20x14	5	\$165.00	\$825.00
2 1/2" PVC	600	\$1.63	\$978.00
90 PVV	18	\$9.37	\$168.66
8 THHN THWN	3200	\$0.59	\$1,888.00
Polaris 3 way 14/8	24	\$12.74	\$305.76
Panel Assembly	1	\$800.00	\$800.00
Misc	1	\$300.00	\$300.00
			\$19,413.42