

Sharon renames it's iron bridge and establishes a memorial to honor Sgt. Carlton Clark

Sgt. Carlton Alan Clark, 22, a native of Sharon, was killed in action on August 6, 2006 while on patrol in Iraq. Carl had survived an earlier attack in June but remained on duty to help bring peace to the Iraqi people. He was scheduled to return stateside in September. Carl is survived by his Mom and Dad, Kathy and Alan Clark, and two sisters, Amy and Jennifer. At his service, his parents were presented the many medals that Carl was awarded for his service: two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star, and the Army Commendation Medal w/Valor. The church was filled to capacity, and a tent, erected outside overflowed with those mourning the loss of their native son.

The Memorial, designed by Scott Fisk, was dedicated on Memorial Day 2009. The entire project was funded by donations of friends both near and far. Carl was the first fatality from this town since World War II when Edgar Carpenter and Raymond Muir were killed in action while fighting in Europe “in the war to end all wars” The two granite benches at the Memorial in remembrance of these fine men, their names inscribed on each.

Carl attended South Royalton High School where he excelled both in his studies and sports, setting many new records. He was admired and respected by his peers and the community. Carl had a kind word, a smile and a helping hand whenever needed. He had aided the Vermont Fish & Wildlife folks introduce the first salmon into the White River. Not quite sure of what he wanted to do after graduation, Carl enlisted in the US Army, and naturally he joined the 101st Airborne, excelling there as was his nature. He was on his second tour in Iraq when he was fatally wounded.

Carl's sacrifice also inspired a local artist, David Farnsworth, to write a song and dedicate it to Carl. He performed it at the dedication ceremony. It is available on Utube and CD “The Green Mountains and Me”. A song from the heart, inspired by Carlton Clark's ultimate sacrifice. Carl served his country with distinction ! “*To uphold liberty is an act of citizenship of the highest order.*”

We hope you will take a moment and visit the memorial, take a seat, listen to the gentle noise of the White River as it flows by, and reflect on our country and the sacrifice made by these men and all who serve to give us the freedom we so enjoy. Liberty is never free, it comes at a very high cost. Carl, Edgar and Raymond gave their lives for freedom and they deserve to be remembered today, tomorrow, and forever. We can only hope that some day the world will realize war is not the answer, we cherish the freedom that these men and others sacrificed for that right.

The building of the Carlton Clark Memorial

The Town of Sharon builds a memorial to honor one of their own, Carlton Clark, who gave his life while trying to bring freedom to the Iraqi people. There was a huge response from folks locally and as far away as Texas. Their contributions provided the needed funds to bring the monument from concept to reality. Those funds and the help of many volunteers made the dedication a success.

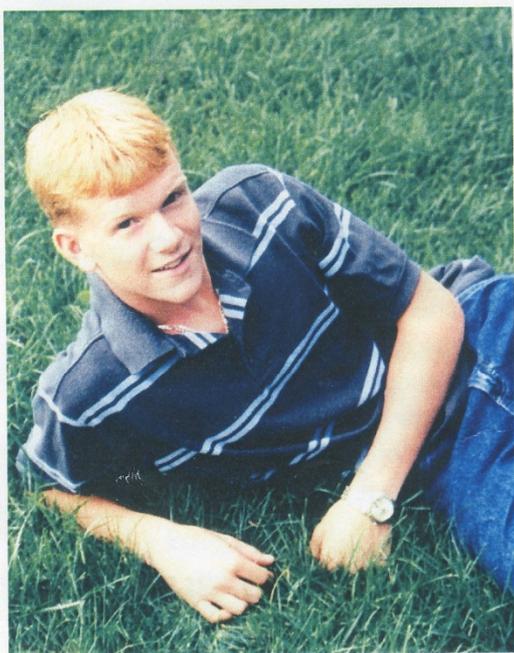
The following photographs show the steps to make this dream a reality. On Memorial Day 2009 this memorial was dedicated to Carlton.



Carlton Alan Clark

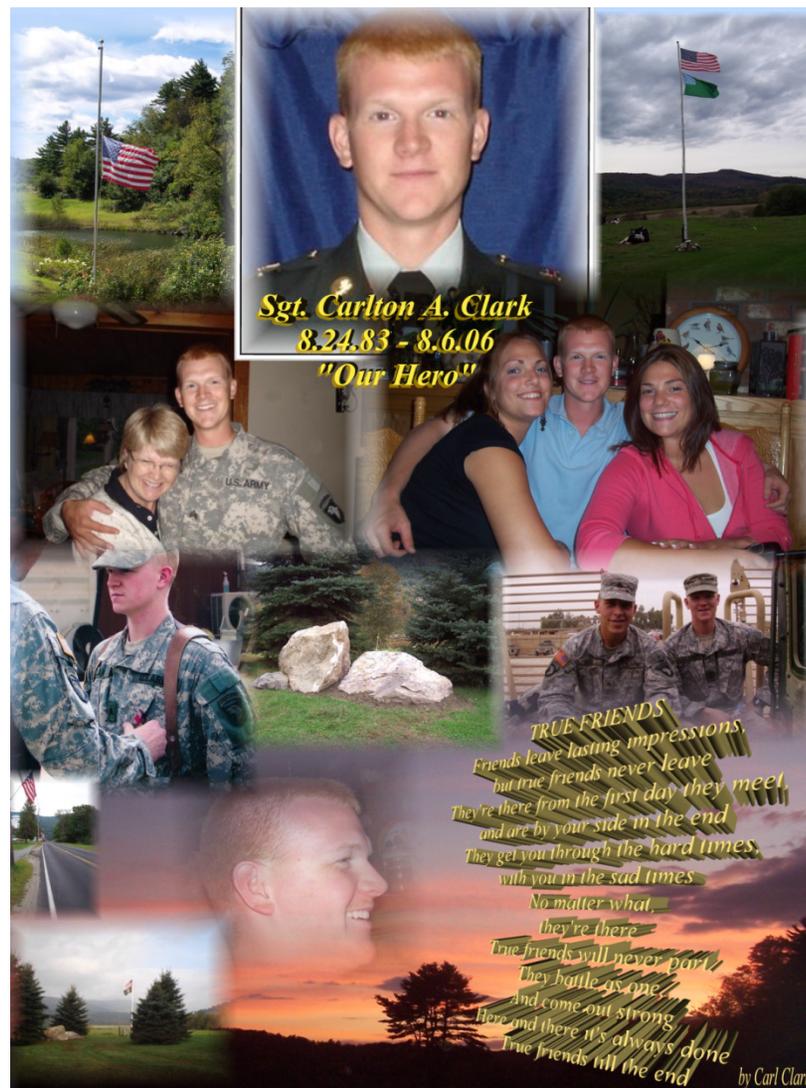
August 23, 1983 ~ August 6, 2006

In Loving Memory



"You're on the high hills
You feel the sounds of freedom
Enjoy the Moment"

— Carlton A. Clark



The State of Vermont provides a parcel of land for the building of the monument.



The Site and the Artists concept.....and the work began.



Clearing the site



Building up the site



Selecting rocks for the stone wall.



Ken Moore begins building the wall



Leslie Moore aligns the wall



Jim and Scott Fisk take a break



Adding the donated topsoil



Positioning the granite benches



The Granite Memorial Stone arrives



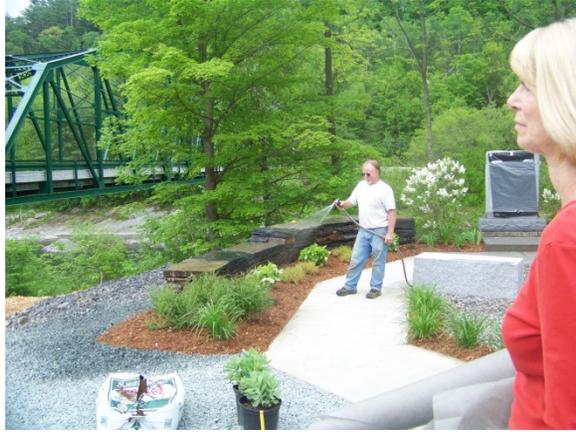
Alan Clark Sr. lends a hand



Scott takes a break and enjoys a drink from his Mom, Wendy



Donna Foster and Mary Grant arrange the plantings.



Alan Clark and Wendy Fisk give the plantings a final look



Final tweaking before the dedication



Ready for the dedication

Memorial Day 2009



A beautiful sunny day as hundreds arrive for the dedication.



SHARON BRIDGE
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
CARLTON ALAN CLARK
MAY 25TH, 2009



**The Carl Clark Memorial Dedication
May 25, 2009**

Sgt. Carlton Alan Clark Memorial



Come and visit, listen to the sounds of nature, just relax and reflect.

**CARLTON CLARK
MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

Dedicated to the Memory of
SGT. CARLTON ALAN CLARK

August 24, 1983 - August 6, 2006

**2nd Brigade Troop Battalion,
2nd Brigade Combat Team,
101st Airborne Division "Air Assault", US Army**



Sgt. Clark was killed in action on August 6, 2006, in Baghdad, while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Carl was awarded two Purple Hearts,
The Army Commendation Medal with Valor,
and the Bronze Star.

*And to the memory of all of those who have
served in defense of our country and our
freedom. On behalf of the people of
Sharon and the State of Vermont on this
25th day of May, 2009*

