

# THE SUN STAR

THE SUN COMES OUT ON THURSDAY • APRIL 10, 2008

Price

NORTH ROYALTON • STRONGSVILLE

## Memorial flags will salute veterans

By Joanne Berger DuMound  
Staff Writer

NORTH ROYALTON — Army veteran Emil Phillips is a strong backer of the North Royalton Lions Club's Memorial Flag project.

The new site in the North Royalton Cemetery on Royalton Road will be dedicated May 26 — Memorial Day. It will display six flags to commemorate military veterans.

"The veterans have been

neglected for years here, unfortunately. Our cemetery has one memorial stone and that is from the Civil War," said the 86-year-old. "The location is one of the best there is — on top of the hill. It is high, on a main thoroughfare and between two major highways. It will be very recognizable when passing. And, hopefully, some will stop to pay a tribute."

The flagpoles have been installed. The flags have been

purchased by residents or groups.

■ American flag — North Royalton Lions Club.

■ Army flag — Emil Phillips.

■ Navy flag — Dave Toth.

■ Marine flag — Ray and Fied DeAnna.

■ Air Force — Nick Phillips.

■ Coast Guard — Bob Serpentini.

See FLAGS, page A10

## Flags

from page A1

■ POW/MIA — Lisa Ufman-Kirsch and the Lions Club.

The group, however, has plans to upgrade the project with paver bricks. The engraved brick pavers may be purchased for \$50 or \$100. Decorative benches also can be dedicated for \$750 each.

Fred DeAnna said the group also is accepting donations to help defray the cost of landscaping, grading, lighting and concrete sidewalks. DeAnna, who served in the Marines from 1952 to 1955, said he didn't see combat but knew some who died.

"They were boys — 18, 19, 21. Yet they died like men," he said. "We owe it to them."

Phillips spent a few Saturdays at the local Giant Eagle displaying military memorabilia and seeking buyers for the pavers. He said one man, in a somber mood, opened his wallet, pulled out a \$20 and donated it, without a word.

"I knew where he was coming from. It was from the heart," Phillips said. "We can't expect people to do things for you. We have to do things ourselves. Freedom is not free. You have to work for it. We have freedom today because of the veterans who fought and died for us. We invite everyone to buy a brick and thank a veteran or someone you believe who help you attain the freedom we have today."

Forms are available from any Lions member or at the



SUN PHOTO BY JOANNE BERGER DUMOUND

Armed Services flags will appear soon at this new North Royalton commemorative site to honor military veterans.