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"THE QUEEN OF AMERICAN LAKES"

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“Repose of the Fallen,” a DRI Anchor Project, Wins Governor Hochul’s Praise

By Mirror Staff

The May 22 ceremony at Lake George Battlefield Park, when the remains of 44 people who died at the 1776 Fort George Military Hospital were reinterred in the new memorial plaza, marked “the completion of the “Repose of the Fallen” Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) project,” the office of Governor Kathy Hochul stated in a press release.

“The \$700,000 project was supported by a \$519,000 DRI grant, as well as contributions from the Town of Lake George and private donors. With the completion of this memorial project, it now stands as a permanent tribute as New York State celebrates ‘America 250,’ honoring the sacrifice and service of those who helped play a role in the founding of the nation,” the Governor’s office stated.

The Town and the Village of Lake George were awarded a roughly \$10 million DRI

grant from New York State in December, 2023 and from the start, a memorial honoring Continental Army soldiers in Battlefield Park was considered one of the revitalization plan’s “anchor projects.” In fact, a proposal for a memorial plaza helped Lake George secure the award.

The idea had the support of New York State, which has owned Battlefield Park since 1898 and whose Department of Environmental Conservation manages it as a historic site and public park, and the Adirondack Park Agency, which must approve any alterations to state-owned lands within the Adirondack Park, as prescribed by the State Land Master Plan, which the New York State legislature approved in 1972.

The Boards of both the Village and the Town of Lake George approved resolutions supporting “respectful reburials” of the remains. The state Senate and the



Governor Kathy Hochul announced that Lake George had been awarded a \$10 million DRI grant at the Fort William Henry's Carriage House in December, 2023.

Assembly adopted resolutions supporting reinterment in Battlefield Park. U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, who visited the site in August, 2024, called upon the U.S. Army to facilitate the reinterment of the remains.

Governor Hochul said, "This memorial is exactly the kind of public-private partnership that capitalizes on the unique strengths of a community and will act as a reminder that we will always preserve the memory of those who shaped our nation and will be a draw for residents and visitors for generations to

come."

According to the Governor's office, "The Repose of the Fallen" is one of 13 projects totaling \$9.7 million funded through the DRI, and is the first DRI project to be completed in Lake George. The nearby Shepard Park Amphitheater, also funded through the DRI, is set to be completed this summer."

Said Lake George Town Supervisor Vinnie Crocitto, "This project honors the legacy of those who helped shape our country's history and creates a meaningful space for residents and visitors

to gather, learn and remember. I'm deeply grateful for the strong State-local partnership through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative that made this project possible."

Lake George Village Mayor Ray Perry commented, "We are grateful for the DRI funding that helped transform this important historic site into a place of reflection and remembrance for residents and visitors alike. I'm grateful to Governor Hochul for her leadership and commitment to impactful investments such as this."