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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### VETERANS FREEDOM PARK - THANK YOU

Our service members are the reason we are able to enjoy the freedoms we hold so dearly. They leave their wives, husbands, and children at home and some will make the ultimate sacrifice while overseas. The sacrifices those men and women made while fighting together were honored by the teamwork of a community dedicated to remembering them. Dedicated to building the Veterans Freedom Park.

Just the night before the grand opening, the team was short on mulch but Walraven's Country Market quickly solved the problem with a gracious donation. Hayes Township and the Clare County Fairgrounds donated the use of their bleachers for seating. The flag presentation on M-61 was performed by Heintz Lifting, and veterans that needed a way to get to the event were provided a free ride by the Clare County and Isabella transits. With temperatures in the mid 80s, the refreshments from Harrison's Chemical Bank kept the 400 plus attendees hydrated after the ceremony. Cargill's Portable Welding fabricated the donation poll and S&S Collision painted it and donated the use of their chairs for the ceremony, MacLeans Harrison Flower Shop donated the beautiful arrangements and The Harrison Chamber of Commerce performed the ribbon cutting ceremony. A big thanks to the Harrison High School band for their wonderful performance, Veto Giannola for his time setting up our sound system and all of the speakers that became a part of history with us. The mentions could go on for pages.

The grand opening showed a community that stood together for service members that still stand for us. Honoring those that served, our heroes, is important to this nation. Clare County Veterans Services would like to thank all that contributed and all that attended the grand opening.

The completion and opening of the Veterans Freedom Park, with all of the people who contributed, shows that this community has not lost sight of who our heroes are; for this we are most grateful.

*Clare County Veterans Services would like to extend a special thanks to Command Chief Warrant Officer Gabriel Ambrozaitis for his involvement in the planning process over the last several months. Without his contribution, Our Grand Opening would not have been so successful!*