

Way We Were

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Celebrating and Remembering: Veterans Day

Across the country, communities take this time of the year to honor and highlight the importance of our veterans. The sacrifices that those men and women have made and are currently still making allow us as Americans to live a life of freedom. With the purest respect for those members of our nation, the federal government enacted the observance of Veterans Day. A holiday devoted to those that have served in armed service, and in some parts of the country is also known as Armistice Day. With the end of World War I many Americans wanted to celebrate those that were lost and survived fighting on the Western Front. United States President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Armistice Day for November 11, 1919 to align with the official end of WWI on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918. And in 1938 a Congressional Act made the 11<sup>th</sup> of November in each year a legal holiday dedicated to our military.

Park City is not unlike any other part of this country, the community celebrates Veterans Day with memorials and ceremonies. Town squares, village greens, and city parks throughout the country house statues, plaques and historic markers as a way of thanking those who have continued to keep us protected. Park City went a step further in 1939 with the construction of the Summit County War Veterans Memorial Building, still located on 427 Main Street.

Built in honor of war veterans, it served as a community center with various organizations utilizing the space for meetings and fundraisers. Some of those groups included the Boy Scouts, Pythian Sisters, Women's Athenaeum, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, American Legion and many more. The building also at one time housed KPCW radio station, Park City Police Department and the Municipal Recreation Department. Unfortunately between the 1970s and 80s funding and maintenance issues threatened its future. And in the mid 1980s Park City sold the structure. Since then it has been an integral part of nightlife in town, housing such businesses as O'Shucks & Park City Live.

Though 427 Main Street is no longer used as a community center it will forever be our memorial for the soldiers of Park City and beyond. As this week passes please let us remember all those individuals who have made this country free and safe.



Main Image #Digi.44.28

Credit: Park City Historical Society & Museum

Caption: War Veterans Memorial Building, located at 427 Main Street.



Inset Image #Digi.2.2103

Credit: Park City Historical Society & Museum, Himes-Buck Digital Collection

Caption: Members of the American Legion at Memorial Building cornerstone laying in 1937.