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JAMAICA PLAIN, WEST ROXBURY

Renovated Civil War monument JP to be rededicated 140 years after unveiling

Posted by Matt Rocheleau September 16, 2011 03:52 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A recently-restored, granite Civil War statue at a busy Jamaica Plain rotary will be rededicated this weekend, 140 years after the tall monument was first unveiled.



(Courtesy: City of Boston)

On Sept. 14, 1871, a solemn crowd of area residents and local officials processed to and gathered at the monument to recognize 23 soldiers and officers from the area who died in the Civil War and have their names engraved on the statue located in what was then the town of West

Roxbury.

Located at the intersection of South and Centre streets, Soldier's Monument is crowned by a seven-foot granite statue of a Union soldier leaning on his rifle at guard rest. The ornate landmark underwent a restoration project in spring 2010 and will be rededicated Saturday at 12:30 p.m. ceremony.

Attendees will include Mayor Thomas M. Menino, local officials and area residents, representatives of the Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund, Jamaica Pond Association, Jamaica Plain Historical Society, restoration contractor Daedalus, Inc., and the Boston Police Department.

In a nod to its historic past, Saturday's rededication will include a reading based on excerpts from the original 1871 dedication led by the then-building committee chair George Woodman.

"Upon the obelisk, in the interior of the structure, will be found inscribed the names of twenty-three of our fallen townsmen, acquaintances, and friends; almost all of them young men, - the very flower and pride and hope of our community," said Woodman before reading the dead soldiers' names aloud at

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the ceremony 140 years ago.

He added later in his address, “I also deem it proper to say, that while the great lessons of the war never ought and never will be forgotten, still this is no triumphal arch, raised to perpetuate our victories over treason and rebellion; we can safely trust that to impartial history: but this Monument is simply what it was intended to be – an affectionate memory to our heroic dead.”

After Woodman’s address, flags draping the monument were removed revealing the statue to the spectators as thirteen guns fired in salute.

His full remarks, the words of fellow speakers and other accounts of that day can be found below or by [clicking here](#):

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