

[Freeholder Frank Perrotta originated the idea of planting white dogwood trees in county municipalities in memory of local men who have lost their lives in Vietnam.]

Dateline: May 1967

TREE PLANTING HONORS SOLDIER

Glen Rock Pays Tribute to Vietnam Casualty in Arbor Day Ceremony

The Borough paid tribute Saturday to David Darrin Higdon, a Vietnam casualty, by planting a white dogwood tree in his memory on the Public Library grounds.

The Arbor Day observance was attended by Higdon's family and friends, the American Legion, the V. F. W. and County and Borough officials.

Higdon was the first Glen Rock casualty and the seventh Bergen County man to die in Vietnam.

Freeholder Frank Perrotta said the planting was to symbolize that Americans have not forgotten the sacrifices of soldiers. "In dedicating this tree to the memory of one who has given his life, we also dedicate ourselves to the full support of the living who carry on the battle," he said.

Higdon was graduated from Glen Rock High School in 1962. He was a football, basketball and track star at the school. Before enlisting in the Army in June 1965, he studied engineering at Fairleigh Dickinson University. He died in Vietnam April 14, 1966.

Mayor Allan B. Murray led the ceremony, which was arranged by the American Legion. Pau E. Ostrom, Legion commander, dedicated the tree, and the Rev. Ivan Partidge, rector of All Saints Episcopal Church, gave the invocation and benediction.

The ceremony was one of three such Arbor Day observances in the County Saturday.