

Norman Todd Park was a gift to the people of Cohasset from the Todd Family in memory of their son Norman MacIntosh Todd, a Marine Lieutenant who died from radiation exposure during World War II.

Norman was referred to by his family and friends as "Mac". 354 Jerusalem Road, also known as "Greystone Lodge", was the home of the Todd Family. During the winter months, they lived at the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston where they had four rooms on the third floor.

Mac's father, Albert, was the President of United Shoe Machinery Co. in Boston which was founded by George Brown of Beverly. Mr. Brown was married to Albert's sister. Albert Todd was an avid golfer and played every Sunday morning at the Cohasset Golf Club.

In 1942, while at Cornell University, Mac met his future wife Mary Jo Campbell. Mac graduated from Cornell in 1943 and was commissioned a Marine Lieutenant in 1944. In October, 1944 he married Mary Jo and seven months later (May, 1945) was deployed to the Pacific Theater.

Mac was among the first Marine units to enter Nagasaki after the atomic bomb was dropped on August 9, 1945. Like many Marines in these units, he became sick from exposure to radiation and was sent to a hospital in California. His family was not given any information about his ailment or when he would be able to go home to Cohasset.

When Mac was finally able to return to Cohasset, his family was told that there was no cure for his illness. Albert Todd spared no expense on medical exams and treatments for his son. During his illness, the Todd Family's nanny, Dee Dee Granville, cared for Mac. In 1947, two years after being exposed to radiation, Marine Lieutenant Norman M. Todd died at his home at 119 North Main Street in Cohasset with his wife, Mary Jo, by his side.

Norman Todd Park, when originally constructed, was planted with azaleas, flowering plants and trees. Ralph Enos, a local resident, was paid \$1.67 per hour by the town to care for the park. During the years after Ralph retired, the park was not taken care of and became just another public place with overgrown grass and shrubs. Many of us do not remember the days when the Park was in its grandeur. In 2000, Mac's widow and her daughter came to Cohasset to see the Park and they were disappointed and surprised to see the condition of the Park when they visited. Mary Jo sent photos of the original plantings and the Veterans Memorial Committee promised her that we would restore it to its original grandeur.

The Committee requested money from Town Meeting in 2003 and received funding for the project. With the help of landscape designer/architect Ginny Norman, a planting plan was developed based on the original photographs. Irrigation sprinklers were installed, planting was accomplished and a new memorial plaque was cast for the park replacing the original plaque that was lost over time.

Today, the residents of Cohasset can be proud of this living memorial to Mac Todd.

Cohasset lost seven other men during World War II. All of whom are also memorialized with squares in town.

Allen A. Buffum  
Beechwood St. & So. Main Street

Robert E. Jason  
Road at the Common

William B. Long  
Road at the Common

Howard R. Gleason  
Road to Yacht Club from Margin St.

Perry H. Johnson  
Beach St. & Atlantic Ave.

David H. Parker  
King St. & Beechwood St.

Everett F. Studley  
Jerusalem Rd. & Hull St.  
West's Corner

Cohasset sent 498 men and women to serve during World War II from 1941 until the war was declared over in December, 1946. A book of the Cohasset servicemen's names was presented to the National Monuments Commission at the dedication of the WWII Memorial on May 29, 2004 in Washington, DC.

Cohasset has memorialized all of its service men and women of the "Greatest Generation" by listing all of their names at Veterans Park at Cohasset Harbor. The mothers of the eight servicemen that gave their lives are memorialized at the Gold Star Mothers Monument at Woodside Cemetery.



