

## **Replacement of Spanish-American War Plaques at Rockery**

Wakefield's Hiker statue depicts a Spanish-American War foot soldier. The statue, stone engravings, and bronze plaques commemorate the service of the soldiers, sailors, and Marines who served the United States between 1898 and 1902 during the war with Spain, the Philippine insurrection, and the China relief expedition. The site has become one of Wakefield's most iconic images. Since 1984, the Wakefield Center Neighborhood Association has provided or facilitated maintenance of and improvements to the Rockery.

Many years ago, two large cruciform plaques at the site went missing from the granite pillars that flank the Rockery's pool. Only indentations and mounting holes remained.

In early 2016, the WCNA started to research the possibility of recreating the missing pieces. Identical plaques that could serve as mold-making templates were located in nearby towns. Woburn's Skylight Studios proposed a solution of mold making, foundry casting, metal finishing, patina enhancements, surface protection, and final installation of reproduction plaques.

Everett Mayor Carlo DiMaria gave permission to Wakefield's Town Administrator, Steve Maio, for Wakefield's access to Everett's Spanish-American War plaque. On a warm April 2017 day, Skylight Studios made the silicone mold from which two bronze reproductions were cast and in May of that year they were installed.

With the replacement of the plaques, The Hiker memorial site has been restored in tribute to those who have served the United States in Wakefield's name. We invite you to view the new plaques and to reflect on the services that all military men and women provide for our country.