CLOSTER, May 18, 2016 — A ceremony rededicating the memorial to Lt. Donald A. Mollicone, a Borough resident who sacrificed his life in the Vietnam War, will be held on Sunday, May 29 at 12 noon in the Closter park that bears his name.

Jason Lee, 17, who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, refurbished Lt. Mollicone’s memorial as his Eagle Scout Project. Three new commemorative kiosks, a flagpole and a walk-in area for visitors to view the kiosks are major elements of the memorial. Jason enlisted the help of local businesses as well as fellow Boy Scouts to help him refurbish and build the structures.

"When I started this project, I believed that Lt. Mollicone's memorial needed to be refurbished because it was not a respectful representation of why he is remembered today,” Jason said. “His service means the world not only to me, but to the millions of other Americans who get to enjoy all of the freedoms provided in this great country. I am honored to be able to fix this memorial in dedication to a fallen hero.”

Lt. Mollicone’s brother, Richard A. Mollicone, lives in Texas and is unable to travel to New Jersey for the rededication ceremony. However, he made a statement on behalf of his family:

“Don embodied the tenets of scouting, believing the three promises of the Scout Oath and living the twelve points of the Scout Law well beyond his years in scouting.  He gave back what he learned, as a scout leader and mentor.  Don carried his beliefs into adulthood during his time at the U.S. Naval Academy and his service in the U.S. Air Force.  Don was a ‘good guy’ and our country is poorer for his untimely demise.

“The words from West Point’s Alma Mater are fitting here:  ‘... when our work is done, Our course on earth is run, May it be said, “Well done. Be thou at peace.’”’ We remember him always with love and respect.”

Visitors to Mollicone Park can read a full biography of Lt. Mollicone, who was 26 years old when he died in 1963, on one of the new kiosks. The park was named for him in 1969.

Among the requirements to attain Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouting, are earning 21 or more merit badges; embracing a number of leadership roles within the troop; and planning, designing and completing a major project that beautifies and/or enhances the community. Jason completed his Board of Review with members of the Northern New Jersey Council and presented his Project Book on

March 17, 2016.

“Jason is a great example of the exceptional young men Closter Troop 63 has produced since the troop was chartered in 1917,” said Scoutmaster Eric Mattes. “He is our 70th Eagle Scout and we are all very proud of his achievement. Mollicone Park is a popular spot for local families and now visitors will better understand who Lt. Mollicone was and why it is so important to remember him and honor the sacrifice he made.”

Jason Lee is the second in his family to have earned the rank of Eagle Scout and said that he was happy to follow in the footsteps of his brother, Stephen.

The rededication ceremony will be held Memorial Day weekend, on Sunday, May 29 at noon. In addition to Jason, Closter Mayor John Glidden, Closter Recreation Commission Director Jim Oettinger and Joseph Organo from the American Legion will be speaking at the ceremony.

Mollicone Park is located on Knickerbocker Road at Eckerson Avenue. Closter Police Chief Dennis Kaine has requested that participants park on Whitney Street or Eckerson Avenue to avoid crossing Knickerbocker.