Anthony Zdanavage

Decorated veteran was well-known activist

Anthony "Tony" Zdanavage, 60, who worked tirelessly for the recognition and rights of Korean War veterans, died at 12:08 a.m. Tuesday in the emergency room at Berwick Hospital Center after being stricken at his home. He had been in ill health.

He was widely known and gained national status and notoriety for his efforts on behalf of veterans. Mr. Zdanavage was a dedicated member of the Disabled American Veterans, of which he was a highly active member, and he served as commander for the first five years of its existence.

He was also a member of the Nescopeck American Legion. Mr. Zdanavage received the first Pennsylvania Purple Heart license plate, which he helped design.

Mr. Zdanavage was a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Post 529 in Berwick, and had served as commander for the first five years of its existence.

He constructed the first Korean War Memorial in his yard in Salem Township, Berwick R.R.1, which was dedicated in 1986 and was recently moved to the Berwick VFW.

He was the founder of the Korean War Awareness Project, and was a member of the Disabled American Veterans. He was a service officer for the Berwick VFW, Post 521. He was also a member of the Nescopeck American Legion.

Mr. Zdanavage received the first Pennsylvania Purple Heart license plate, which he helped design.

He was born May 29, 1933, in Nanticoke, a son of the late Anthony and Johanna Jaszkiewicz Zdanavage.

He spent most of his life in the Berwick area and had lived in Berwick R.R.1 since 1973. He lived in Slocum many years ago.

He and his wife, the former Esther Rinehamer, celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary June 30.