Captain Dermody Triangle

- This triangle honors Captain William C. Dermody, a dedicated and outspoken abolitionist who was mortally wounded in the Civil War on May 12, 1864 during the battle of Spotsylvania in Virginia.
- The Dermody family immigrated to America in the early 19th century from Nova Scotia, Canada.
- Dermody was the first Baysider to die in the war. He was 34 yrs. old when killed in action. He operated a stage coach line here in Bayside, but was taken up with the abolitionist movement and volunteered to fight for the preservation of the Union.
- Dermody volunteered with the 67th New York Infantry and served in Company K, the first regiment of Long Island Volunteers. They organized in Brooklyn on June 24, 1861 and left the state for Washington DC on August 21, 1861. Dermody attained the rank of Captain, November 21, 1862.
- The regiment was attached to the Army of the Potomac and fought in many major battles throughout the war including Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and the Wilderness Campaign.
- The battle of Spotsylvania began on May 12, 1864, the day on which Dermody was killed. A 20 hour battle took place on that day, called the "Bloody Angle" which by most accounts was the most ferociously sustained combat of the entire Civil War. Over the next two weeks, 152,000 Union and Confederate soldiers fought in the extended battle and some 30,000 died.
- After the war, in 1866 Mrs. James O'Donnell set aside a portion of her family's farm in honor of her brother, Captain Dermody. She and a group of citizens met here and held a memorial ceremony dedicating the site, including a Union and Confederate war veteran, each of which plant a special tree: a maple to represent the North and a sycamore to represent the South. The trees were to grow together as a symbol of the communal hope for a better union. Unfortunately, the trees did not flourish over time and as well, the site lost its luster.
- In 1935, a group of public-spirited Baysiders decided to rededicate the forgotten site and plant new trees. The huge boulder which marks the spot was unveiled and etched with the inscription: "For a Better Union, 1861-1865." Children from local PS 31 took part in the ceremony.
- On March 15, 1937 the city officially named the property for Captain William C. Dermody, which was simply changed to Captain Dermody Triangle on July 29, 1997 by then NYC Parks Commissioner Stern.
- In 1973, at the initiative of the Bayside Historical Society's founder and president Joseph H. Brown, a cleanup, ceremony and rededication was held here. Every Memorial Day, a wreath is laid by the Bayside Historical Society to honor our fallen veterans and it is why we faithfully meet here today at one of New York City's oldest war memorials, located on one of Queens county's oldest roads, Rocky Hill Road (here as 48th Ave).