

This Sunday, January 24th, 2021 marks what would have been the 100th Birthday of Lieutenant Calvin Ellis Jr. He died bravely in combat over Wesendorf Germany on April 4th, 1945 and is buried in Ardennes American Cemetery in Neupre, Belgium. Lieutenant Ellis flew more than 35 missions with the 8th Air Force and was most notably awarded the Air Medal, Purple Heart, and World War II Victory Medal posthumously.

Lieutenant Ellis attended Amherst College and was married to Mary A. Bedale Ellis. Calvin and Mildred Ellis dedicated this field and monument to the Town of Hanover in May, 1953 to honor and memorialize their son. It states in Hanover Town records that "it was the burning desire of Calvin J. Ellis, father of this hero, to build this beautiful playground in the memory of his son and to present it to the youth of today and tomorrow so that they might enjoy the freedom his son loved so much."

I, along with countless others, was fortunate to play on these baseball fields as a child and enjoy the freedom made possible by the sacrifice of Lieutenant Ellis and the generosity of the Ellis family.

We are glad to pay tribute to Lieutenant Ellis and his family today as we thank them for their tremendous sacrifice and service to this town, community, and country.

They are not forgotten.

-Dan Griffin