

MuralFest_Putnam_Who_and_What_Makes-the-Walls?



If a picture paints a thousand words, Putnam's story is one for the history books! But what and whose stories are worthy enough to make it onto a wall?

You may know that our town is named after **Major General Israel Putnam**, a distinguished military commander who served in the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

You may have been a childhood fan of the Boxcar Children book series, penned by Putnam's very own **Gertrude Chandler Warner**.

You may have been born, or treated at Day Kimball Hospital, named for **Moses Day Kimball**, whose mother donated \$5,000 in 1893 to fund the construction of an infirmary building, on the condition that it was named for her son, who died at the tender age of 25 from pneumonia.

What do you know about Torpedoman 2nd class **Henry Breault**, a proud son of Putnam awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1924 by President Calvin Coolidge?

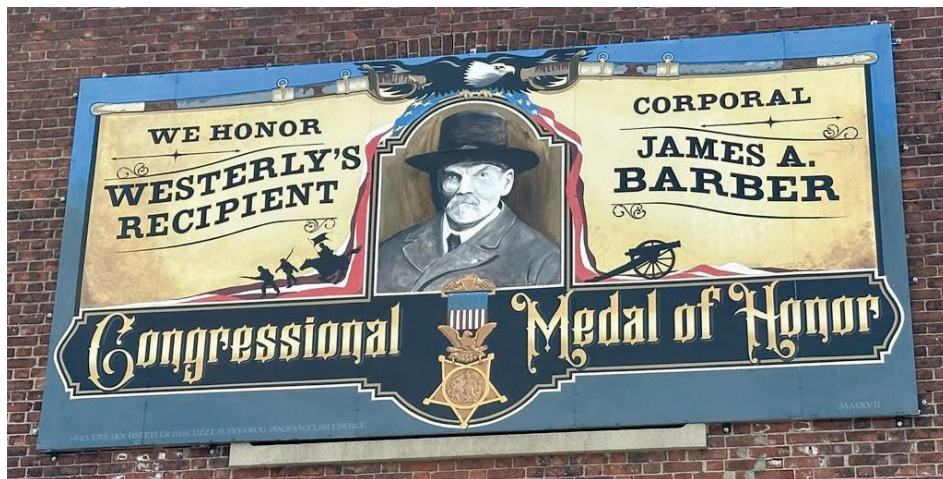
How about Putnam Mayor **John Dempsey**, who served six terms, led Putnam through the disastrous flood of 1955, and went on to become Governor for 10 years?

Then there's the little-known, but all-important **Charles H. Kelley**, the prolific builder of most of Putnam's business blocks including the historic Bradley Playhouse, Bugbee's, the Union Station block, the Courthouse building, Hathaways, Wagners, Bosworth's, the Arcade, and the Episcopal Rectory. Yes, the skilled Mr. Kelley built the brick walls that the Walldogs will paint in a few short years.

Beyond the inspirational people who helped to shape Putnam, what noteworthy events changed the course of Putnam's history? Union Square fires in 1877, 1882, and 1966, and of course, the landscape and life-altering Flood of 1955.

Were you or any of your ancestors Putnam history makers? Tell us and maybe they will grace a wall for future generations. You start thinking while we figure out the best way to collect submissions of mural subjects.

MuralFest Putnam will rely heavily on the invaluable members of the Aspinock Historical Society and other learned volunteers to research the potential candidates for our storytelling murals.



Putnam has a Congressional Medal of Honor winner, too, in Torpedoman Henry Breault!



Picture Putnam's historic Flood of 1955 in a similar way.