



This year's Christmas Tree on the front lawn of the Municipal Building of the Borough of Riverdale was donated by Audrey Dhuyvetter of West Milford in memory of her husband Frank Dhuyvetter, who passed away in June 2010 at the age of 80 after a long illness..

Frank's family has always been so proud of him for being a United States Marine. Corporal Frank Dhuyvetter fought in the Korean War, including fierce battles at the Chosin Reservoir. He was assigned to an outfit in First Marine Division - George Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Regiment.

About 22 years ago, Audrey asked her husband to plant two very tiny seedlings on their front yard. He could not understand why his wife wanted him to plant such small evergreen trees. She assured him that these tiny seedlings would grow big and tall one day, and so the seedlings were planted.

As the years went by, the trees did indeed grow into tall, beautiful evergreens. One tree became known as "Frank" and the other "Audrey".

During the last few years, Frank and Audrey discussed the fact that one of the trees was growing too close to the road and to the wires above it and decided it would need to be taken down one day. However, the tree never did get cut down, until...

After Frank's passing and after much thought and sadness, Audrey recently decided that it was this year that the *Frank* tree needed to be taken down for safety reasons. She was wondering exactly what to do with it since the tree held a special place in her heart. Then, finally the plan took shape. Her son-in-law, Walter Mahon, suggested to her that the Borough of Riverdale might be a good place to donate this special tree, where it could stand tall for people to see and enjoy one last time. Audrey wholeheartedly agreed, and arrangements were made to bring the tree to Riverdale. With the permission of the Mayor, members of the Riverdale DPW were sent to Audrey's home to cut down the tree. Rick Malanga also assisted with the tree removal and transporting of the tree to Riverdale, using one of his specially equipped trucks.

The family of Frank Dhuyvetter would like to thank the Mayor for allowing us to honor Frank in such a special way this Christmas. The family would also like to thank the DPW staff and Rick Malanga for the removal and transport of the tree and to the DPW staff who assisted in the placement and decorating of the tree at the Borough of Riverdale.