

WW II was a monumental effort

Brother Lyles serves as honorary chairman for a group of Winnsboro residents who wish to build a monument honoring veterans.



Courtesy Photo

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FAIRFIELD COUNTY — A group of Fairfield County residents are working to raise money for a monument to honor veterans of World War II, such as Brother Lyles, who serves as honorary chairman for the group.

Lyles wants to see the project succeed for a few million reasons.

“There were about six million of us that served in World War II, so each one of us, individually, just had such an inconsequential part

in it,” Lyles said. “Nobody wanted to be a hero— the heroes came out, but it wasn’t because they wanted to be. We did what we were asked.”

After graduating from The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, Lyles entered the Army as the United States became embroiled in World War II.

“I had an ROTC commission from The Citadel,” Lyles said. “Second Lieutenant.”

Lyles said during his time at The Citadel, war seemed imminent.

“Oh, we knew in 1939,”

Lyles said. “The Germans had invaded Poland, then France, then Czechoslovakia, oh yeah, we knew what was ahead.”

Eventually, Lyles would fight in Germany during the second World War, but it was a circuitous route which took him there.

His first assignment took him to Puerto Rico where he was involved in anti-aircraft operations.

“They pulled us out of Puerto Rico, and I got home in time for Christmas of