



Lawrence F. Ernst was the first young man from East Aurora to make the ultimate sacrifice in World War I. The oldest of 11 children, he joined the Marine Corps and was killed in action June 14, 1918. In his memory, the village named the short street at the circle Ernst Place. The street is located in front of the present site of McDonald's restaurant. The honor given to Ernst is often overlooked because of the street's location on the circle. Due to travel limitations, the bodies of many soldiers were not brought home until after the war, forcing families to hold off memorial services. In some cases, families had to wait several years. After his remains were returned home, Ernst was buried in the Catholic cemetery on Bowen Road.