

# MEMORIAL DAY 2022



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May 26, 2022

# Flags on graves is one way to show respect

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — It's a bittersweet sight this time of year: Somber, silent cemeteries swathed in a radiant blanket of red, white and blue, denoting those who served — and in some cases, made the ultimate sacrifice — as part of the United States military.

Yes, Old Glory is ubiquitous in the myriad Memorial Day salutes to Addison County folks who fought and died for their country. And if you're paying homage at any one of more than a dozen cemeteries spanning Middlebury, Bridport, Cornwall, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge, the flags you see have most likely been acquired and planted by Middlebury American Legion Post 27.

Tom Scanlon, adjutant of Post 27, said the Middlebury Legion this year ordered around 1,400 flags to distribute among veterans' graves in more than a dozen cemeteries in and around the county's shire town. Wednesday, May 18, saw several Boy Scouts placing flags at Middlebury's Case Street and Foote Street cemeteries. All of the grave flags will be distributed over the course of a month,

according to Scanlon.

Commanding particular attention from Post 27 is the Farmingdale Veterans Cemetery off Three Mile Bridge Road in Middlebury. Formerly known as the Seeley Cemetery, it's the oldest graveyard in town, and its many illustrious inhabitants include several veterans of the Revolutionary War. Those reposing at Farmingdale also include Middlebury's first settler, Benjamin Smalley, and Ann Story, the heroine of Daniel P. Thompson's tale of the early settlement of Vermont, titled "Green Mountain Boys."

Scanlon noted Farmingdale has more than 600 plots left for area veterans and their family members.

While Farmingdale will get its share of much-deserved attention Memorial Day weekend, many of the headlines — at least in Addison County — will likely be made at the tiny and remote First Weybridge Hill Cemetery, off Weybridge Road. That's where a number of American Legion and National Guard members, along with various state and local dignitaries, will preside over the interment of the remains of Josiah Clark, who fought at the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775 (See story in this section).

Middlebury Post 27 will supply a Color Guard to march from the church to the cemetery. Post 27 is also covering the expenses of the horse-drawn wagon, a bagpiper and a flag for Clark's coffin.



AMIE WILHELM, LEFT, and Molly Thalen took flags to veterans' graves around the Foote Street Cemetery in Middlebury last week, remembering and honoring their services with a memento of American pride.

Independent photo/Steve James

"It's about respect for our veterans, and that's what the Legion is all about," Scanlon said of Post 27's efforts to distribute flags and ensure proper burial arrangements for those who served.

"Veterans are very near and dear to my heart," added Scanlon, whose dad was a

World War II veteran.

It should be noted that Post 27's generosity extends far beyond flags and burial assistance. The group each year gives more than \$50,000 to various charitable causes — and that doesn't

(See Scouts, Page 3)

**On the cover:**

**MAROLYN BINGHAM PLACES one of the 1,400 flags that Legion Post 27 is distributing this Memorial Day.**

Independent Photo/Steve James

*Honoring our country's Armed Forces — past, present and future*



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Auxiliary Unit # 14  
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include scholarships to graduating Middlebury Union High School students. The Legion supports homeless veterans, the aging and the sick, and children's causes. Post 27 grant recipients have included Homeward Bound, Green Mountain Boy Scouts, the Vermont Veterans Home, Addison County Readers, area fire departments, first responders and numerous sports programs.

Also, based on a memo of understanding with the Vermont Department of Health,

Post 27 hosted numerous clinics during the pandemic, through which 19,300 vaccinations were dispensed.

Anyone wishing to donate to Post 27's efforts on behalf of veterans can send a check to Middlebury American Legion Post 27, P.O. Box 28, Middlebury, VT 05753. Also, visit [americanlegionpost27.com](http://americanlegionpost27.com).

Reporter John Flowers is at [johnf@addisonindependent.com](mailto:johnf@addisonindependent.com).

## Bunker Hill veteran gets new resting place

By JOHN FLOWERS

WEYBRIDGE — Josiah Clark was only 18 years old when he fought at a pivotal battle outside Boston in the early years of the American Revolutionary War. His headstone proudly declares, "He fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill and died 60 years from that day."

Clark was buried in Weybridge (then New Haven), Vt., in 1835, in the Stow Cemetery at the end of Gooseneck Bend Road. But that small cemetery has been giving up its dead to the at-times ferocious and unforgiving Otter Creek, with which the disheveled burial ground shares a border.

It was only thanks to the special efforts of Vermont State Archaeologist Francis "Jess" Robinson that Stow Cemetery's most celebrated occupant, Clark (1757-1835), escaped an involuntary surrender to the creek a few years back. Robinson made an emergency trip to the cemetery not long before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to deftly collect Clark's remains for storage before the creek could claim his coffin.

On Saturday, May 28, a funeral procession accompanying Clark's horse-drawn caisson will set off from the Weybridge Congregational Church at around 10 a.m. for the roughly two-tenths-of-a-mile trek to First Weybridge

Hill Cemetery, where the remains will find their new final resting place.

Clark's second burial on May 28 will likely dwarf the fanfare of his initial burial ceremony 187 years ago. The Vermont National Guard Funeral Service Unit will handle the graveside service with considerable pomp and circumstance, to include a flag ceremony and taps.

Middlebury American Legion Post 27 will supply a Color Guard to march from the church to the cemetery. Post 27 is also covering the expenses of the horse-drawn wagon, a bagpiper and a flag for Clark's coffin. A flag display will be provided by the veterans of the Vermont Patriot Guard Riders.

Ton Scanlon, adjutant of Post 27, said that ensuring proper burial arrangements for those who served is part of the Legion's mission to show respect to veterans.

Everyone is invited to join the procession for the short walk to the First Weybridge Hill Cemetery and join in honoring one of America's earliest veterans. A graveside service will be provided by the Vermont Army Guard.

This is an uncommon opportunity for everyone to join in honoring a veteran of the American Revolution as his  
*(See Reinterred, Page 4)*



THE SCOUTS WHO placed flags at veterans' graves in a Middlebury cemetery last week paused to honor their forebearers with a salute. Shown are, from left, front row, Odin Wilhelm, JD Marais, Marolyn Bingham and Amie Wilhelm; and, back row, Nathan Stefani and Molly Thalen.

Independent photo/Steve James

# MEMORIAL DAY 2022



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**REMEMBER THAT FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.**



THIS BEAUTIFUL 19TH century headstone marked the resting place of Josiah Clark, who fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill in the American Revolution, and was buried in Weybridge's Stow Cemetery in 1835. Clark's remains were removed in 2019 and will be reinterred in the Weybridge Hill Cemetery with a full color guard ceremony this Saturday.

Independent file photo/John Flowers

## Reinterred

*(Continued from Page 3)*

remains are transferred from his deteriorating original burial plot to a more stable environment of similar vintage. It is also a chance to be an active participant in an event that recalls the very founding of our country.

The public is invited to join the procession and graveside service. Transportation for those who would like to be present for the graveside service, but are uncomfortable making the walk, will be provided. Parking is available at Weybridge Elementary School, Monument Farms Dairy, and, for those with limited mobility, the Congregational Church.

Many historical groups, like the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution and the Green Mountain Boy Descendants, are planning to be at the ceremony.

Don Mason, a former Weybridge selectman, was keenly involved in efforts to rescue Clark's remains and those of other Stow Cemetery dwellers. He'll be in the Clark procession on May 28, and hopes to see a bunch of other people there, too.

"We're looking for as many people as we can round up," Mason said. "From my standpoint, it's a once-in-a-lifetime thing."



SCOUT ODIN WILHELM checks out the grave marker of a U.S. Army veteran who served during World War I and is buried in the Foote Street Cemetery.

Independent photo/Steve James

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# D.C. memorial honors those who gave their lives in Vietnam

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., stands as a symbol of America's honor and recognition of the men and women who served and sacrificed their lives in the Vietnam War. Inscribed on the black granite walls are the names of more than 58,000 men and women who gave their lives or remain missing — including many Vermonters.

The Memorial is dedicated to honor the courage, sacrifice and devotion to duty and country of all who answered the call to serve during one of the most divisive wars in U.S. history.

The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund Inc. is the nonprofit organization authorized by Congress in 1980 to fund and build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The organization sought a tangible symbol of recognition from the American people for those who served in the war. By separating the issue of individuals serving in the military during the Vietnam era and U.S. policy carried out there, VVMF began a process of national healing. The Memorial was dedicated on Nov. 13, 1982 and attracts nearly 5 million visitors each year.

## HOW IT CAME TO BE

After watching the film "The Deer Hunter," Vietnam veteran Jan Scruggs

decided that his fellow soldiers needed a tangible symbol of recognition from America of their service and sacrifice. By 1979 a memorial fund was formed, and in 1980 land in Constitution Gardens was authorized for the memorial placement. A design competition was announced, and 21-year-old Yale architecture student Maya Lin earned the unanimous selection.

The central element of Lin's memorial is the shiny black granite wall in a wide V shape, with one "arm" directed toward the Lincoln Memorial and the other toward the Washington Monument. The faces of visitors are reflected in the walls bearing the etched names of the 58,318 men and women who died in combat or are listed as missing in action (MIA).

Those declared dead are marked by a diamond; those MIA are marked by a cross. If the person currently marked as MIA returns alive, a circle is placed around the cross. If his remains are identified, a diamond is superimposed over the cross.

The names of the first men killed (in 1959) start at the highest point of the wall, on the right arm, and continue toward the shorter end. The names resume on the far, short end of the left arm, continuing back toward the junction of the two walls. This way the first deaths and the last



ONE OF THE 5 million visitors a year to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., gazes at some of the names on the shiny granite wall. More than 58,000 soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who lost their lives in the war are listed there.

deaths (May 15, 1975) meet in the middle. Directories are placed near the wall for visitors to look up names.

The design choice proved controversial, and eventually a flag and figurative sculpture of servicemen was added to the plan. The memorial wall dedication in 1982 was accompanied by a 56-hour reading at Washington National Cathedral of all the engraved names of the dead.

While The Wall itself has garnered much attention, other features of the memorial

site include The Three Servicemen statue, the Vietnam Women's Memorial, the In Memory plaque, and a flagpole that flies both the U.S. and the MIA-POW flag. That pole carries the insignia of the five branches of the Armed Forces.

Young, armed, and wearing jungle combat gear, The Three Servicemen's gazes are fixed on the wall. Veterans have stated that while there are distinguishing characteristics for each man, they still feel

(See D.C. Memorial, Page 10)

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 Vergennes American Legion, Post #14

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# Honoring those Addison County soldiers who fell in Vietnam

A 21st-century companion to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is the virtual "Wall of Faces." This website, set up by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), features a page dedicated to honoring and remembering every person whose name is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

VVMF wants to have digital images and profiles for every service member to further preserve their legacy. As of early 2021, VVMF had collected images for all but 100 service members on The Wall

The Wall of Faces allows family and friends to share memories, post pictures and connect with each other.

See the Wall of Faces online at [vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces](http://vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces).

Featured there are pages dedicated to six members of the U.S. armed forces who hailed from Addison County, Vt., and who died in service to their country.

The following local men are listed in the virtual Wall of Faces. Included is one of the messages left on the wall for this serviceman.



**DAVID ALAN BRILEYA**

Born Sept. 10, 1947.  
Home of record: Vergennes  
Army  
Killed June 11, 1967  
Buried at Lake View Cemetery in Shoreham.

Wall of Faces Message: "As an American, I would like to thank you for your service and for your sacrifice made on behalf of our wonderful country. The youth of today could gain much by learning of heroes such as yourself, men and women whose courage and heart can never be questioned.

May God allow you to read this, and may He allow me to someday shake your hand when I get to Heaven to personally thank you. May he also allow my father to find you and shake your hand now to say thank you; for America, and for those who love you."



**ALLEN JOSEPH GREENE**

Born July 28, 1947.  
Home of record: Orwell  
Marine Corps  
Killed Feb. 5, 1969  
Buried at Lake View Cemetery in Shoreham.

Message: "Thank you for your service as an Advanced Avionics Technician/Trainee. It has been too long, and it's about time for us all to acknowledge the sacrifices of those like you who answered our nation's call. Please watch over America, it stills needs your strength, courage and faithfulness. Rest in peace with the angels."



**GARY PAUL HILL**

Born May 29, 1949.  
Home of record: Vergennes  
Marine Corps  
Killed May 1, 1968

Buried Resurrection Park in S. Burlington

Wall of Faces Message: "You are my Uncle. When I was born my father named me Gary after you. We have never met, though in some ways I feel like I know you, we are family. I am honored to carry your name. You stepped up when your country called and you served and gave the ultimate sacrifice. Thank you."



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# Vietnam



**DOUGLAS GORDON ORVIS**

Born June 3, 1942.  
 Home of record: Bristol  
 Army  
 Killed July 29, 1968  
 Buried at Lincoln Cemetery in Bristol.  
 Message: "Dear Lt Douglas Orvis, Thank you for your service as an Infantry Unit Commander with the 1st Cavalry. Saying thank you isn't enough, but it is from the heart. Lent has begun. Time passes quickly. Please watch over America, it stills needs your strength, courage and faithfulness, especially now."



**NELSON KEITH RIVERS**

Born June 9, 1947.  
 Home of record: Ferrisburgh  
 Marine Corps  
 Killed Jan. 26, 1967  
 Buried at Boro Cemetery in Monkton.  
 Message: "I want to thank you, Nelson Keith Rivers, for your courageous and valiant service, faithful contribution, and your most holy sacrifice given to this great country of ours!  
 Your Spirit is alive — and strong, therefore Marine, you shall never be forgotten, nor has your death been in vain!  
 Again, thank you LCPL Nelson Keith Rivers, for a job well done!  
 REST IN ETERNAL PEACE MY MARINE FRIEND"



**ROBERT DOUGLAS STONE**

Born July 19, 1941.  
 Home of record: Salisbury  
 Army  
 Killed July 21, 1968.  
 Buried at St Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Middlebury.  
 Wall of Faces Message: "I LOVE AND MISS YOU DADDY"



**I want to add a name to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. How do I do that?**

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund receives numerous requests each year from individuals who desire to have particular names placed on the Memorial. And while the Memorial Fund finances the name additions to The Wall, we do not determine whose names are to be inscribed. It is the Department of Defense that makes these difficult and often very technical decisions. Our organization does not have the authority to overrule those who adjudicate these matters.

Neither victims of Agent Orange nor PTSD-induced suicides fit the parameters for inclusion on The Wall. However, The Memorial Fund honors those who have died as a result of the Vietnam War, but do not meet the requirements for inclusion on The Wall with its In Memory program.

If you have someone who is not a victim of Agent Orange nor PTSD-induced and would like to submit a formal request online to [www.vvmf.org/About-The-Wall/](http://www.vvmf.org/About-The-Wall/) - add.

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# We've always had to fight for Memorial Day

By CHRISTOPHER ROSS

ADDISON COUNTY — When Memorial Day rolls around it's easy to talk about why we honor those who have sacrificed their lives for their country.

What's less easy to talk about is how

The *Addison Independent* began publishing the year after World War II concluded.

In those days Memorial Days, or Decoration Days as they were often known, occurred on May 30 each year.

Early editions of the *Independent* kept readers informed about the day's events in sober, earnest terms.

"Memorial Day will be solemnly observed throughout Addison County in various ways, with the traditional services in cemeteries and parades in Middlebury, Bristol and Vergennes," the paper announced in 1947.

A companion story on the front page contained 12 lines from the

19th-century poem that's inscribed on the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, "Bivouac of the Dead."

Editors included the lines "lest we forget May 30th."

The following year the *Independent* noted that the American Legion Auxiliary would be selling poppies, which they encouraged citizens to wear so as to honor the war dead.

"The poppies ... have been made by disabled veterans at the White River Junction Veterans' hospital," the article explained. "They

are crepe paper replicas of the famous wild poppies of France and Belgium, well known to veterans of the first World War and which have been the symbol of remembrance for the dead ever since."

But by 1950, less than five years after VJ Day, there was a feeling that we were not doing enough for our soldiers.

At Middlebury's parade exercises at West Cemetery that year, Middlebury College English instructor Lockwood Merriman "made a plea for greater recognition of veterans in private life."

A year later, even as the Middlebury Post of the American Legion was dedicating

a memorial plaque to the dead of World Wars I and II, which bore the names of 15 Middlebury residents, we were at war again, this time in Korea.

In 1952, the *Independent* included with its Memorial Day content a syndicated cartoon on the editorial page.

Titled "How Many More?," it depicted a large cross engraved with "Korea June 1950." Leaning against the cross was the bare wire frame of 1951's Memorial Day wreath. In the foreground stood a fresh wreath with a new ribbon and bow, labeled "Memorial Day 1952."

The following Middlebury's Memorial Day rites featured a veteran from that war, Lt.



1947

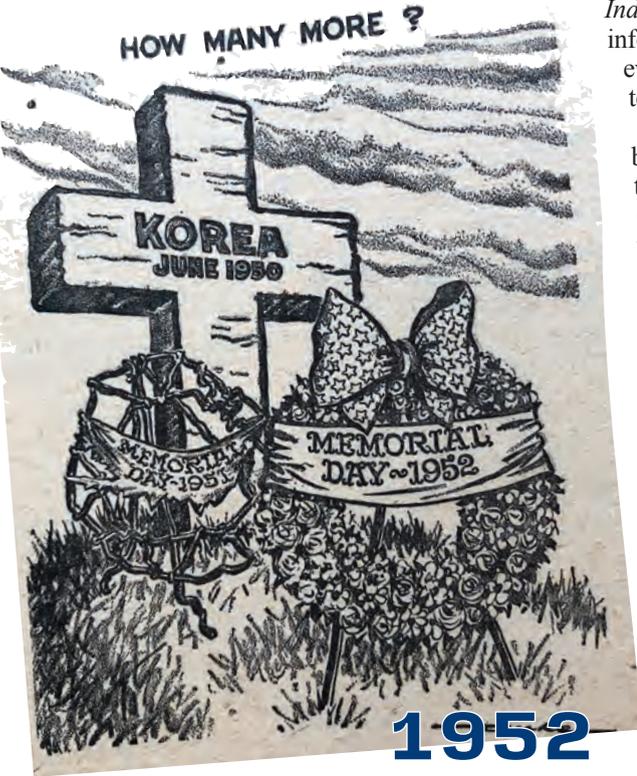
Col. Charles Adcock, as its guest speaker. As the Cold War began to harden and settle in for the long haul, local Memorial Day speeches began to acquire a touch of military boosterism.

"The nation's war dead deserve, and would desire, maintenance of the American heritage they died to preserve, rather than gratitude," said Senior Army advisor to the Vermont National Guard Col. John W. White at Middlebury's 1956 memorial.

"The U.S. has been struck when weak, rallied its strength to win victory, then relaxed its vigilance only to have aggressors attack once more," White continued. "Though the American economy prohibits a massive Armed Force, the cycle of weakness, attack, strength, and weakness again can be prevented by building up a citizen soldiery in the Reserve Forces."

In 1960, Lt. Col. John H. Washington of the Plattsburgh Air Force base warned of

**"In 1960, Lt. Col. John H. Washington of the Plattsburgh Air Force base warned of 'red missile power.' The main danger to the nation, he said, 'is the Soviet capability to deliver nuclear weapons by air.'"**



1952

hard it can be to get Americans to stop and actually take the time and effort to remember.

In a way, it stands to reason. Americans are as busy and distracted and politically divided as ever.

But the truth is, it's never been easy to persuade more than a small minority of people to pay remembrance to our war dead.



1953

Veterans of past and present wars stand with bowing invocation at Middlebury Memorial Day Rites at West Cemetery. Left to right - Pfc. Charles Malzac, Korean War; R. Beckwith, WW II; Robert Stowe, who placed wreath in honor of Civil War dead; Keith Pearson, WW I; and representing Nelson Pickering and Spanish American War.



1964

Pupils carrying flowers for the graves of soldiers in Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven are shown as they marched to the pre-Memorial Day ceremonies last Friday. New Haven had first presented a memorial service of choral readings, band selections, songs and essays in honor of the nation's dead and in tribute to President John F. Kennedy and General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.



Guest speakers during Middlebury Memorial Day ceremonies Monday, May 26, were I. W. Neuse, Capt. George T. Murdoch II and Col. (ret.) Joseph W. A. Foote of Middlebury, a retired Marine captain, gave the main address. Frank Somers and Cmdr. (ret.) William G. Gettysburg Address — from memory — when they have given it did not show up.

1975

# Fight



1996

“red missile power.”  
The main danger to the nation, he said, “is the Soviet capability to deliver nuclear weapons by air.”

A few days earlier, the *Independent's* main Memorial Day article had focused Memorial Day being “the first of three long weekends this year,” which would inspire a lot of car travel. And a half-page advertisement in that edition announced a “Decoration Day Sale.”

In the late 1960s and early 1970s the *Independent's* editorial page used Memorial Day as an opportunity to show support for — and scold opposition to — the Vietnam War.

Nonetheless the true meaning of the day shone through.

“The brave who died on foreign fields of battle defending our conception of right and liberty, the mothers and fathers prematurely called from the green hills and fields of home, the grandfathers

(Continued from Page 8)  
and grandmothers whose twinkling eye stayed with them and with us — each and every soul in Heaven — fully deserve and merit the total 60 seconds worth of distance run in the golden moment of silence devoted to them,” editors wrote in 1968. “Give them the 60 seconds. It only takes a minute.”

In 1971 Congress officially designated the last Monday in May as Memorial Day.

The following year, the *Independent's* editors spent more ink complaining about “long-hairs and weirdos,”

“transient hippies” and “government employees” and “unions” bent on “getting another paid holiday” than on exploring the true meaning of the day.

But the memorials continued and the parades persisted. In 1976, veterans of five different wars placed wreathes on the Soldiers Monument in Middlebury: Arthur Benedict (Spanish American War); George Peck (World War I); Eric Flanagan (World War II); Walter McGuire (Korean War) and John Fraser (Vietnam War).

Over the ensuing decades, the meaning of Memorial Day became more complex, with people finding ways to broaden and deepen its messages.

On May 22, 2008, the *Independent* printed the names, ranks and hometowns of 4,580 servicemen and women who had died

in the line of duty in Iraq and

Afghanistan.

The seven-page spread opened with a quote from the 20th-century journalist and English professor Bergan Evans.

“Freedom of speech and freedom of action are meaningless without freedom to think. And there is no freedom of thought without doubt.”

In recent years the *Independent* has helped honor the dead by sharing stories about the ones who came back, folks like:

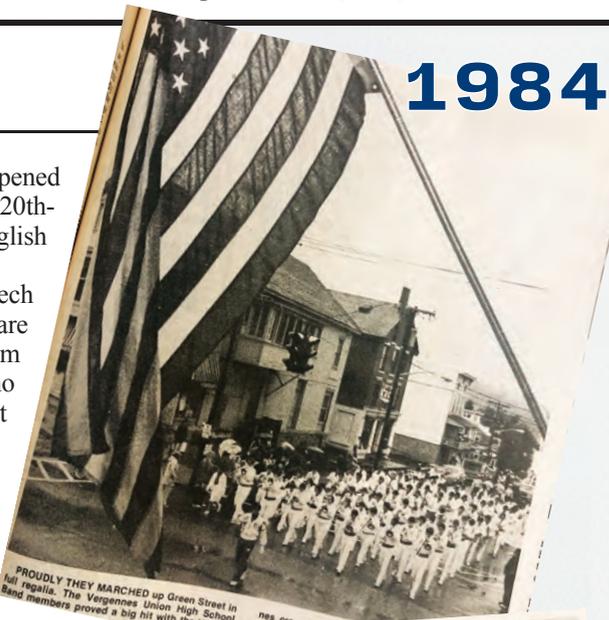
- World War II B-17 pilot and Nazi prisoner of War J. Francis Angier, who wasn't sure if he deserved to be the Vergennes parade marshal.
- Of Spanish War veteran Nelson Pickering, who participated in Middlebury's Memorial Day ceremonies into his 90s.

- Of Lesley Urban, who in 1950 defended his homeland of Hungary from the Russians and eventually made his way to America.

These stories help us to remember, too, and though the remembering is complex, we urge you to take a moment this Monday and be a part of it, even if in solitude, even if in silence.

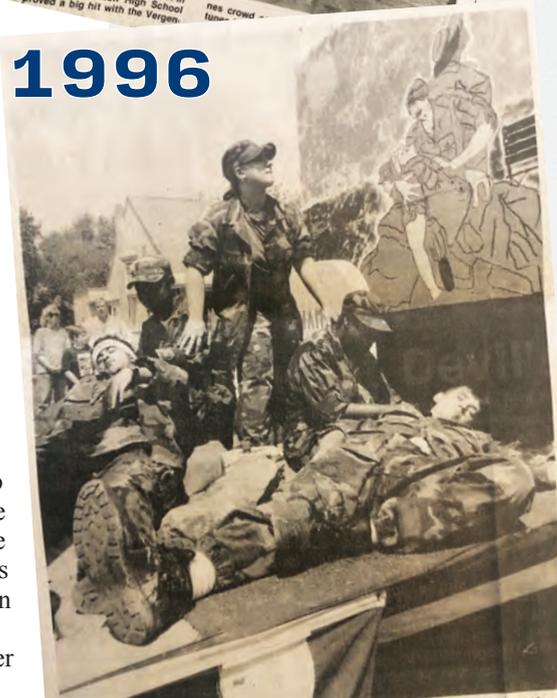
We cannot help but be better for it.

Reach Christopher Ross at [christopherr@addisonindependent.com](mailto:christopherr@addisonindependent.com).



1984

PROUDLY THEY MARCHED up Green Street in full regalia. The Vergennes Union High School Band members proved a big hit with the Vergennes crowd.



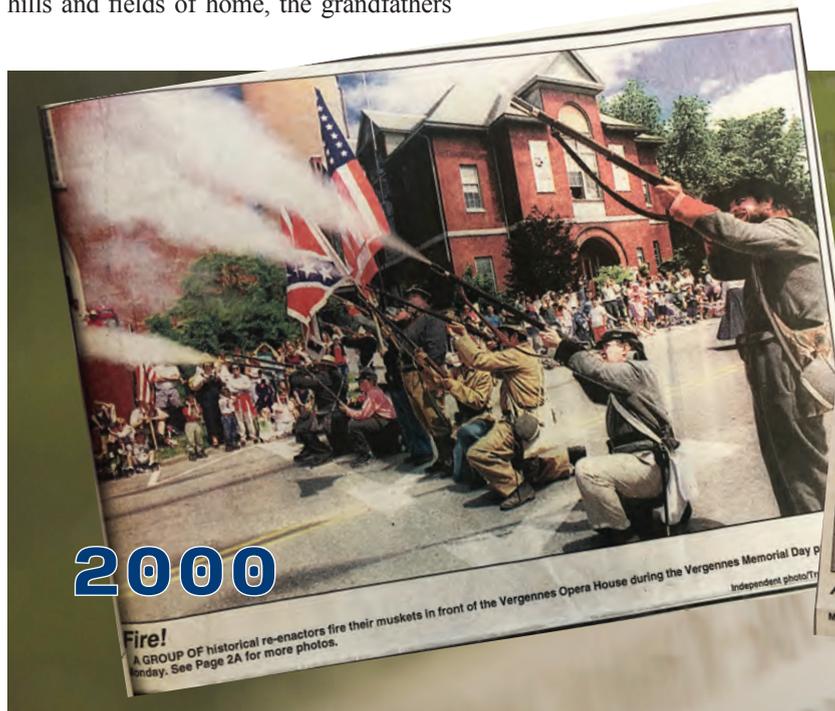
1996

NORTHLAND JOB CORPS Center students pay tribute to the nation's fallen soldiers with their float in the Vergennes Memorial Day Parade.



2008

Blow it, Cats! MEMBERS OF THE Mary Hogan Elementary School band rock out in front of the Battell Building on Middlebury's Main Street during the Memorial Day parade Monday.



2000

Fire! A GROUP OF historical re-enactors fire their muskets in front of the Vergennes Opera House during the Vergennes Memorial Day parade Monday. See Page 2A for more photos.



2012

A big flag for a big parade ELKS CLUB MEMBERS carry an enormous American flag down Main Street in Vergennes Monday during the Memorial Day parade. For more photos from Vergennes and Middlebury, see Page 16A.

# D.C. Memorial

(Continued from Page 5)

like they could be any soldier.

The bronze statues were created by artist Frederick Hart, who interviewed dozens of veterans and watched film footage and documentaries from the war so that he could execute an artwork that “bespeaks the bonds of love and sacrifice that is the nature of men at war.”

In another grove of trees sits the Vietnam Women’s Memorial, another

figurative sculpture depicting three nurses and one wounded soldier. One nurse sits upon sandbags, holding the wounded man while another searches the sky for help — perhaps a helicopter airlift. A third one kneels behind the sandbags, forlornly holding an empty helmet in her hand.

The artist, Glenna Goodacre, has stated that in this vignette, the young man is saved by the actions of these women —



THE GAZE OF the soldiers in “The Three Servicemen” statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial are fixed on the long, granite wall featuring the names of those killed or missing in action in Vietnam.



THE VIETNAM WOMEN’S Memorial was dedicated in 1993 near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial depicts three nurses and one wounded soldier. The artist said she wanted it to be a tribute to the living.

she wanted this artwork “to be a monument for the living.” The names of the eight women military women lost in the war are inscribed on the wall, and there are eight trees in the sculpture’s grove.

The In Memory plaque, dedicated in 2004, is near The Three Servicemen and

honors the men and women who died as a result of their service in Vietnam.

Many who visit leave behind items in memoriam to those that have served. The military dog tags, flowers, war medals, photographs, and even favorite toys left behind aid the healing process.



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8am – 5pm



### Deciphering the text

SCOUT LEADER AL Thalen and his daughter Molly Thalen take a break from distributing flags at the Foote Street Cemetery last week to carefully read the weathered inscription on an old tombstone in the Middlebury burial ground.

Independent photo/Steve James

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this weekend and  
view the  
Rotary Flag Project  
in honor of  
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**ROTARY**

# Watch VA Memorial Day ceremony streaming live

VERMONT — Over the past couple of years the Veterans Administration hospital in White River Junction has held Memorial Day ceremonies that recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic poses dangers to large public gatherings. So on Memorial Day in 2020 and 2021, the VA honored service members killed while on duty by streaming a ceremony live on Facebook.

The center will again stream a Memorial Day ceremony on Facebook live this coming Monday, May 30. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m.

Chaplain Lorna Graham will offer remarks prior to laying the memorial wreath followed by the playing of Taps by the White River Junction Navy Operational Support Center. There will be 250 poppy flowers placed around the

memorial in memory of fallen Soldiers and Veterans, donated by the White River Junction VA Employees Association.

If you would like to have a poppy laid for a Veteran please reach out to the Employees Association through Facebook or email [wrvjvaea@gmail.com](mailto:wrvjvaea@gmail.com). Names will be read at the ceremony.

Musical selections will be played by the Lyme Town Band.

The White River Junction VA Healthcare System remembers those who have fallen on May 30 in honor of the original Decorations Day established on May 5, 1868, by Major General John A. Logan, the head of an organization of Union Veterans, as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war's fallen soldiers with flowers.



**BOY SCOUTS**  
ODIN Wilhelm, left, Nathan Stefani and JD Marais are thorough in their sweep through the Foote Street Cemetery in Middlebury, placing flags at all the graves of veterans.

Independent photos/Steve James

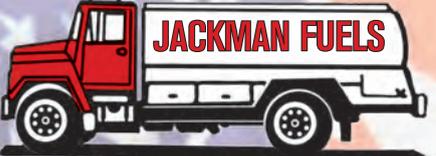


THE TRADITIONAL WREATH laying ceremony at the White River Junction VA Medical Center this Memorial Day Weekend will be streamed online, just as it was in the 2021 ceremony shown here. Like last year, the service at the Memorial in Memory of Fallen Soldiers and Veterans will feature an honor guard and the playing of Taps.



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## MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER AND HONOR

Vergennes Lions Club would like to give thanks to Vermont's veterans for their service.



**REVOLUTIONARY WAR RE-ENACTORS** will perform at Fort Ticonderoga on Memorial Day weekend, this Saturday and Sunday, in services remembering the armed forces of the United States on the very grounds where so many American soldiers paid the ultimate price for freedom.

## Revolutionary War dead Rememered at Fort Ti

TICONDEROGA, N.Y. — Fort Ticonderoga will pay tribute to the men and women who lost their lives in service to their country during the American Revolution. Discover the story of the American Army in 1777 and how it prepared to defend liberty at Ticonderoga through living history programs and demonstrations throughout Memorial Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday, May 28-29.

“Join a hive of activity as citizens-turned-soldiers reinforced extensive lines of defenses across the Ticonderoga peninsula and beyond to prepare for a renewed British invasion. Throughout the weekend, visitors will witness the labor of liberty as soldiers from the Continental Army bring to life this defining story through military drill, historic trades, and fatigue duties such as carpentry,” said Beth Hill, Fort Ticonderoga president and CEO.

Enjoy narrated scenic boat tours aboard the Carillon and cruise along the same

shores of Lake Champlain that American soldiers and sailors sailed in 1777.

A full line-up of activities and programs offered throughout the weekend include daily tours in the fort, King’s Garden, and museum exhibition spaces; historic trades programs; ongoing living history programs; thrilling weapons demonstrations; the Mount Defiance experience; and the Carillon Battlefield hiking trail. A full schedule can be found at [fortticonderoga.org](http://fortticonderoga.org).

A 10% general admissions discount will be given to active duty military members with proof of service for this special weekend-long event.

Welcoming visitors since 1909, Fort Ticonderoga preserves North America’s largest 18th-century artillery collection, 2,000 acres of historic landscape on Lake Champlain, and Carillon Battlefield, and the largest series of untouched Revolutionary War era earthworks surviving in America.

# Vt. honors its veterans at memorial cemetery

VERMONT — The Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery (VVMC) in Randolph Center performs more burials a year than any other cemetery in the state.

It is a beautiful location, 487 Furnace Rd., that honors the service of veterans by providing them perpetual recognition. The cemetery isn’t just for veterans, though, as veterans’ spouses and some dependents are also eligible for burial.

You can get an application online at [tinyurl.com/VtVetsCemeteryApp](http://tinyurl.com/VtVetsCemeteryApp).

Please call us at (802) 828-3379 for more detailed information.

### ELIGIBILITY

Burial in the VVMC is open to all members of the armed forces who have met a minimum active-duty service requirement and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. A veteran’s spouse, widow or widower, minor dependent children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities may also be eligible for burial. National Guard and Reserve members with 20 years of service (retirement letter) are also eligible. The Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA) will determine eligibility using the veteran’s DD214 discharge record or retirement letter.

### COST

There is no cost for the veteran to be

buried in the government issued marker sections of the cemetery. There is an opening/closing fee for a spouse or minor child. Please contact the OVA for current fees. These fees may be paid to the VVMC in advance.

### CAPACITY

The VVMC has a large capacity for future interments. There are 110 acres at the VVMC. The 12-acre expansion funded by the National Cemetery Administration at the VVMC, includes a new 1,230-square-foot Public Information Center, a new 2,652-square-foot maintenance facility, new burial plots to include 410 pre-placed crypts for in-ground casket burials, 390 in-ground cremains plots, and 840 columbarium niches, for a total of 1,640 additional burial plots. This new expansion will allow year-round operations at the VVMC.

The expansion was done within the guidelines of the National Cemetery Administration. Those guidelines do not include a safe way for numerous cars to park at the graveside, or for groups of people to walk to these expansion sites (Sections H, I and J). The VVMC currently has 30 acres out of a total of 110 acres developed into burial grounds. This expansion, coupled with the new master plan, will ensure that the VVMC will be active for the next 100 years.



**In honor of those who have served and who continue to serve.**

*Thank You.*

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**Thank you to those who have served**  
**Have a Safe and Happy Memorial Day!**



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**Let's never forget  
what they did  
and why.**

**Former Addison County  
Deputy Sheriff and  
High Bailiff  
of Addison County,  
Ron Holmes,  
would like to salute all  
who have given their lives  
for our country on this  
Memorial Day.**



# Treat Memorial Day as the solemn day it is

Memorial Day is celebrated each May to commemorate the people who died in service of the United States of America.

Even though barbecues and visions of the upcoming summer weather may command much of the attention come Memorial Day weekend, the holiday really serves as a remembrance for those military members who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country, as well as the personnel who continue to protect and serve today.

## MEMORIAL DAY ORIGINS

Memorial Day was first known as Decoration Day and was borne out of the Civil War. On May 30, 1868, General John Logan, a national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, decreed General Order No. 11, which designated the day for the "purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land." May 30 was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

It took several years for the first state to recognize the holiday, which New York adopted in 1873. By 1890, all northern states recognized Decoration Day. When the holiday changed from commemorating those who died fighting

the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war after World War I, the South began to recognize it as well.

## HONORING THE MILITARY

Although Memorial Day pays homage to the brave people who perished fighting for their country, it also is an opportunity to recognize the military men and women and their families who continue to work to ensure the freedom of Americans.

The U.S. Armed Forces is renowned for its size and strength. Various sources suggest the size of the United States military is somewhere between 1.4 million and 1.6 million active service people. The military is comprised of the Army, Army National Guard, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Each of these military branches also has its own reserves.

One way to honor the war dead is to observe the National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time for one minute.

There are many ways to honor active, reserve and former veterans, as well as those who died in service of their country.

- Volunteer at a veterans' hospital or visit a wounded veteran at home.
- Offer financial, legal or career expertise through the Corporation for National & Community Service (serve.gov).

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## We Join our Entire Community in Celebrating Memorial Day

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Heather Foster-Provencher  
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Brenda Jaring  
802-989-7522  
fostergroup@comcast.net



## Remember

U.S. FLAGS FLYING at the graves of American service members around Memorial Day is a familiar and, in some ways, comforting sight. American Legion Post 27 in Middlebury is planning to post around 1,400 flags among veterans' graves in more than a dozen cemeteries this year.

Independent photos/Steve James





# Memorial Day Specials!



All While Supplies Last!

Remembering and honoring those who made sacrifices for our freedom



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Not valid w/any other offer or on items already on clearance.

Sale thru May 30, 2022

## Look for Sales - Flyer Specials & More at Agway!

Great Deals on these Dog Treats, Potting Mix, Mulches and More! Ends 5/30/22



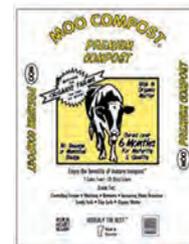
**Lambert Potting Mix \$9.99**  
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**Miracle Gro Plant Food \$10.99**  
reg. \$13.99  
4lb box



**Scotts Grubex 5M \$25.99**  
reg. \$32.99



**Moo Premium Compost \$6.99**  
reg. \$7.99  
1 cu. ft.



**Mulchex Brown Cedar Mulch \$5.99**  
reg. \$6.99  
3 cuft bags



**Spartan Mosquito Eradicators \$21.99**  
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**Wildbone Jerky Treats 2 for \$2.99**  
reg. \$1.99



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