

# Knox County



## Veterans Service Office

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### Our Mission

The mission of the Knox County Veterans Service Office is to provide eligible veterans and their families with those benefits to which they may be entitled under federal, state, and local law, in accordance with established policies and procedures.

The Knox County Veterans Service Office shall take those steps necessary to ensure a well trained and professional staff that is available to advise and assist veterans, their dependents, and the widows and orphans of those veterans who, by virtue of their service in the military of the United States of America. They may be entitled to benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or any other benefit available under federal, state, or local law.

The Knox County Veterans Service shall provide temporary financial assistance to those veterans or their dependents who have demonstrated a financial need due to illness, injury, lack of employment, or an unexpected hardship. Determination of financial need shall be made by the Veterans Service Commission in accordance with the guidelines it alone shall establish and oversee, in accordance with Title 59 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Knox County Veterans Service Commission shall promulgate programs as required by Title 59 of the Ohio revised Code for services not listed above, such as outreach and the transportation of veterans to and from VA medical facilities.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Radio Program 1300 WMVO 10 AM	3 Commissioners Meeting - 3 PM - Public Welcome	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Vet Center on Location 9am—4pm. Call for an appointment	12	13
14 Mother's Day 	15	16	17 Commissioners Meeting - 3 PM - Public Welcome	18  Joint Veteran Council Mtg. 7:30 pm	19	20  Armed Forces Day 
21	22	23	24	25 Vet Center on Location 9am—4pm. Call for an appointment	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day, Parade @ 11:00 am  Office Closed	30	31			



## KNOX COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE



VOLUME 10, ISSUE 5

DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT

MAY 2017

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK - KEVIN L. HENTHORN

As we enter May, our thoughts always turn to Memorial Day.

We hope that you will contact your local municipality to find out times and places of your local parades and ceremonies. We are looking forward to many opportunities this year to honor those no longer with us. There are no words that can describe our deepest sympathy for the families of those no longer with us and thankfulness to those who have given so much.

There is little I can share in this month's newsletter that could express how myself and our staff feel when Memorial Day comes around, so I will simply leave you with the little known fourth verse of our National Anthem The Star Spangled Banner.

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall  
stand  
Between their loved home and the war's  
desolation!  
Blest with victory and peace, may the  
heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and  
preserved us a nation.  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it  
is just,  
And this be our motto: "In God is our  
trust."  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph  
shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of  
the brave!

Thank you once again for the privilege to serve my community and God Bless you all.



Executive Director, Kevin L. Henthorn

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 2nd, Radio Program on WMVO at 10:00 AM.
- Veterans Service Office Commissioners first & third Wed. at 3 p.m. Public Welcome
- Vet Center Counseling on location May 11th & May 25th call for an appointment.
- May 29th OFFICE CLOSED - Memorial Day
- May 29th Memorial Day Parade, Mt. Vernon Square 11am



# Memorial Day History

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

**Local Observances Claim To Be First** Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today, cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well as Richmond, Va. The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, Ill., cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

**Official Birthplace Declared** In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community-wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities.

It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

**Some States Have Confederate Observances** Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday of April, Alabama on the fourth Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it on May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

Gen. Logan's order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 "with the choicest flowers of spring-time" urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave — a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

The origins of special services to honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War over 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in the nation's wars: "Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men."

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: "It's a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day."



FLAG SALES		NEW FLAG PRICES !!!	
Size:	Material:	NEW Price:	
3x5	Nylon	\$10.00	
3x5	Cotton	\$11.00	
4x6	Nylon	\$15.00	
5x8	Nylon	\$20.00	
5x8	Cotton	\$23.00	

**Check or Money Order ONLY!! Thank You.**