

Memorial Day Commemorations

**A Special Newsletter Edition to Help You Commemorate Memorial Day**

By Jackie Cuthbert

Thanks to **Lisa Stillwell of the Roswell Club, our District Family of Rotary Chair**, for the challenge she issued to each of us to pause this Memorial Day and quietly remember the sacrifices of others for our freedom this coming Monday, May 25. Her email shared some history - that records show the earliest commemoration of fallen soldiers in the US was organized by freed slaves at the end of the Civil War. After WWI, that special day of remembrance evolved to include all US military personnel who died in all wars. In 1971, Memorial Day became a federal holiday.

District 6900 clubs and others around the country find themselves creating new ways to celebrate Memorial Day this year since large gatherings are still on hold. We are sharing two of them in this special edition of the newsletter - Alpharetta's virtual celebration at 9:00 am on Monday, and one from our sister district - District 6920 - for their annual (and this year virtual) Taps at Twilight service at 6:45 pm.

If you can't join either of these events, Lisa and District 6900 have challenged everyone to join in the Memorial Day national moment of remembrance. At 3 pm, May 25th, encourage everyone you are with at that moment to pause and be thankful for the veterans who returned home and how your service to others honors them all.

"Ceremonies are important. But our gratitude has to be more than visits to the troops and once a year Memorial Day ceremonies. We honor the dead best by treating the living well". Jennifer M Granholm [\[more\]](#)



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**Join Alpharetta's Virtual Tribute to Our Veterans ... May 25 at 9:00 AM**

By Kirk Driskell

The City of Alpharetta and the Rotary Club of Alpharetta will host a Virtual Memorial Day Tribute on Monday, May 25, at 9 a.m. The ceremony will feature a combination of live and recorded content that will be live-streamed from Brooke Street Park behind Alpharetta City Hall. The public is invited to tune into the program virtually at <http://www.youtube.com/alpharettagov>.

"While we are observing Memorial Day in a very different way this year due to social distancing, we knew it was important to provide a way for our community to honor the heroes who gave their lives to protect this great nation and the freedoms we all enjoy," Mayor Jim Gilvin said. "This year, I hope even more people will have the opportunity to join us virtually for this very special tribute." [\[more\]](#)



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**Taps at Twilight - May 25 at 6:45 pm ... sponsored by St. Simons Island Rotary Club**

By Jackie Cuthbert

St. Simons Island Rotary will present the annual "Taps at Twilight" Memorial Day tribute at 6:45 PM, Monday, May 25, 2020. In consideration of social distancing guidelines, the event will be held virtually and will not be live. Viewing opportunities will be on Golden Isles TV Channel 98, the SSI Rotary YouTube channel and Facebook ... [\[more\]](#)

**Upcoming Key Dates**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, June 17th, 2020 | <b>Emory-Clifton Club President Installation</b> |
| Saturday, June 20th, 2020  | <b>RYLA CANCELLED</b>                            |
| Saturday, June 20th, 2020  | <b>District Celebration</b>                      |

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Posted by Jackie Cuthbert  
May 22, 2020

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The ceremony will feature a combination of live and recorded content that will be live-streamed from Brooke Street Park behind Alpharetta City Hall. The public is invited to tune into the program virtually at <http://www.youtube.com/alpharettagov>.

"While we are observing Memorial Day in a very different way this year due to social distancing, we knew it was important to provide a way for our community to honor the heroes who gave their lives to protect this great nation and the freedoms we all enjoy," Mayor Jim Gilvin said. "This year, I hope even more people will have the opportunity to join us virtually for this very special tribute."

The program will begin at 9 a.m. with an Invocation by Patrick Day, Senior Pastor at Northminster Presbyterian Church. Then the National Anthem will be presented followed by Gilvin delivering the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, there will be a reading of four "Letters Home" sharing correspondence sent home from soldiers during World War II, The Korean War, The Vietnam War and The War in Afghanistan by presenter Marty Farrell.

Former U.S. Army Ranger 75th Ranger Regiment, Grant McGarry, will give the keynote address. The program will then feature a "We Remember" video with moving images of past and present United States military service members. The program will close out with a playing of TAPs by Nick Amundson.

McGarry is a former U.S. Army Ranger, best-selling author of "A Night in the Pech Valley" and a combat veteran with five deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan in the War on Terror. Upon graduation in 2006 from the University of Alabama with a degree in finance, Grant reported to Fort Benning with an enlistment contract "for the hardest thing the Army has to offer."

After graduating from the Ranger Indoctrination Program, Grant was assigned to the 1st Ranger Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment in Savannah. While serving as an Army Ranger, Grant held several positions and leadership assignments, from rifleman to machine gun team leader, and both squad Alpha and Bravo Team leader. Between deployments, Sergeant McGarry graduated from the U.S. Army Ranger School and was awarded the coveted Ranger Tab.

On his fifth and last deployment to Afghanistan in 2010, while leading the primary assault team for the number three most wanted High Value Target, Sergeant McGarry and his squad were involved in a vicious firefight with enemy forces in the Pech Valley. As a consequence of his actions during the battle that eliminated the number three HVT, Sergeant McGarry was awarded the Bronze Star with "Valor" Device.

Following the completion of his enlistment in 2011, Grant was a security contractor at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, during and after the withdrawal of coalition forces. Upon Grant's return to the U.S. in 2012, he worked at The Coca-Cola Company, co-founded The Darby Project (a veteran services non-profit organization), started LTRC-Ops, Inc., and earned an MBA from Emory University's Goizueta Business School. Most importantly, Grant and his wife Karin have two boys, Gunnar and Gage.

"Memorial Day is a time to reflect and remember those soldiers that have laid down their lives for our freedom," co-chair of the event William Perkins said. "We come together as a community to pay tribute and honor their sacrifice. The values that we hold so dearly have been made possible by the men and women of our military."

After the program concludes, the full Virtual Memorial Day Tribute video will be available for future viewing on the City of Alpharetta's YouTube channel.

Posted by Kirk Driskell  
May 22, 2020

## **Taps at Twilight - May 25 at 6:45 pm ... sponsored by St. Simons Island Rotary Club**



St. Simons Island Rotary will present the annual **“Taps at Twilight”** Memorial Day tribute at 6:45 PM, Monday, May 25, 2020. In consideration of social distancing guidelines, the event will be held virtually and will not be live. Viewing opportunities will be on Golden Isles TV Channel 98, the SSI Rotary YouTube channel and Facebook page.

“Taps,” a free event that SSI Rotary has offered the community for 29 years, is a moving commemoration for veterans and grateful citizens. This year, the club felt that - now, more than ever - the community may want a way to, virtually, come together, take the time to remember our values as a nation and remember those who have made our freedoms possible.

The program will include all the moments that have made **Taps at Twilight** events so special in the past:

- Patriotic music
- Posting of colors
- National Anthem sung by Vietnam veteran, Stan Moran.
- Invocation
- Wreath presentation
- Notable Speakers
- Retirement of Colors
- Taps, played by a trumpet player



Featured musicians will include Michael Hulett and Owen Plant. Also, performing his newly released single "Memorial Day," will be national country/western recording artist, Billy Dean. [www.BillyDean.com](http://www.BillyDean.com)

The 2020 program will be dedicated to Clint Winne, Jr., a retired U.S. Air Force Brigadier General, highly decorated combat pilot who flew 159 missions during Vietnam, a graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point, and member of St. Simons Rotary.

[http://www.ssirotary.org/newweb/Club\\_Recognitions/Brigadier%20General%20Clinton%20H%20Winne.pdf](http://www.ssirotary.org/newweb/Club_Recognitions/Brigadier%20General%20Clinton%20H%20Winne.pdf)

New and special additions during this year's tribute include a canon firing from the Lynx - a replica schooner from the War of 1812 - to open the event, and a flyover to honor Mr. Winne.

The speakers will include the Adjutant General, Major General Marvin T. Hunt, recently retired Adjutant General, Major General Greg Lusk, and Colonel Wes Morrison, NCNG Chief of Staff.

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/portals/31/Features/ngbgomo/bio/2/2730.html>

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/portals/31/Features/ngbgomo/bio/2/2150.html>

This tribute also acknowledges the important role of GA military during WWII. Remaining members of the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, "Old Hickory," will be honored. This Division, comprised of infantry from GA, NC, SC and TN was recently awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for heroism, 75 years later, for its bravery and success against the German's elite forces at Mortain, and later at the Battle of the Bulge during WWII.

#### **PHOTOS:**



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