

Memorial Day 2020

Each year about this time, my column is about activities planned for Memorial Day in our area. This year, of course, not much is normal with the Coronavirus impacting all of our lives and activities. Our local Veterans organizations commanders are trying their best to make sure Memorial Day 2020 has not been cancelled. The National Cemetery Administration posted on their website that all VA national cemeteries will be open for visitation on Memorial Day, and family and friends may place flowers or flags at Veterans' gravesite. However, the Cemeteries will be following CDC guidelines in maintaining social distancing, limit the size of gatherings and ask vulnerable populations to remain sheltered in place. The new Veterans National Cemetery expected to host a memorable event on their first Memorial Day will now hold a virtual celebration and can be viewed on their Facebook page at facebook.com/fargonationalcemeterycommittee.

Our local Veterans organizations will continue their traditions of visiting local cemeteries with Moorhead American Legion and Dilworth VFW will hold ceremonies at the following cemeteries: 8:45 Moorhead Memorial Gardens, 9:15 Sabin Elmwood cemetery, 9:30 Sabin Trinity Cemetery, 10:00 Evergreens South Moorhead, 10:15 Prairie Home cemetery, 10:30 St Josephs cemetery and 10:40 Riverside North Moorhead. Fargo VFW and American Legion will be at the following cemeteries: 8:30 Holly Cross, 10:30 Riverside, 11:00 Sunset Memorial Gardens and 1:00 Lindenwood monuments. Fargo AMVETS will be at the following: 7:30 Fargo Northside Jewish cemetery, 8:00 North Fargo Holy Cross, 11:00 Riverside South Fargo and 12:30 Sunset cemetery. The traditional ceremonies at the Fargo Civic Center and Air Museum have been cancelled.

Ancestry.com, perhaps the best-known genealogy website has created a 'Parade of Heroes' video that will go live at 8 a.m. on 25 May 2020 on their Facebook page – facebook.com/AncestryUS. It will also be available for streaming on ancestry.com. According to press release information "The 45-minute event is hosted by Kathie Lee Gifford and will feature a musical performance by singer-songwriter Tori Kelly as well as interviews with veterans and Memorial Day tributes. There will also be a special focus on World War II, due to this year's 75th anniversary of its conclusion, including patriotic hymns performed by the Lincoln Way Marching Band from New Lenox, Illinois." [Goodhousekeeping.com](https://goodhousekeeping.com) has suggested activities for Memorial including listen to veterans' stories, the national archives has many, donate time or money to a Veterans' organization or nonprofit, take some time to research the reason for Memorial Day, write a letter or connect via social media to any family members who are currently serving in the military, and if there are youngsters in the family, create chalk art Memorial Day message on your sidewalk.

Finally, I found a author unknown quote I like for Memorial Day "We don't know them all, but we owe them all."