Memorial Day 2018

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. However, Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966.

Memorial Day was result of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated 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," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war.

It is now observed in almost every state on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971. This helped ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays. Several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead.

The Moorhead American Legion Post 21 and Dilworth VFW Post 1223 Honor Guards will be at the following locations on Memorial Day Monday May 28th. Military Honors will be given at each location which includes: Rifle Salute, Prayer, and Taps. Times are all approximate, so it is recommended that you arrive 10-15 minutes early.
7:00am Main Ave Veterans' Bridge
8:45am Moorhead Memorial Gardens, South Moorhead
9:15am Elmwood Cemetery, Sabin
9:30am Trinity Cemetery, Sabin
10:00am Evergreens Cemetery, South Moorhead
10:15am Prairie Home Cemetery, by Concordia
10:30am St. Joseph's Cemetery, North Moorhead
10:40am Riverside Cemetery, North Moorhead
11:00am The public is invited to view the Military Honors and attend the ceremony at the Moorhead National Guard Training and Community Center (The Armory) 1002 15 Ave. N. Moorhead. This year's Guest Speaker is Brian Berg, Clay County Administrator.
1:00pm The Moorhead Legion will host a flag raising ceremony at the Post 21 Memorial.
All events are open to the public and I encourage you to attend. Sweetie and I will not be able to attend these activities because we will be leaving on Memorial Day for a 10 day, MSUM Alumni-sponsored tour of Ireland.