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LT  
- May 27 - 06  
Tribute -

### Great Memorial

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a large thank you to Michael Winters for the dedication and devotion he put into the Montana Veterans Memorial. This memorial is a wonderful tribute to our veterans and shall be admired and appreciated by many for generations to come.

Michael has been steadfast in his pursuit to finish this memorial project and is truly to be commended.

Do all you can do to attend and stand among our "Veterans in Memory" at the celebration this Memorial Day weekend.

— Eleanor Mares and family,  
Great Falls

Montana Veterans Memorial Committee invites  
you to our

**FIRST ANNUAL USO NIGHT**

**"A NIGHT TO REMEMBER"**

**DANCE TO NICHOLS BIG BAND MUSIC**

**UNVEILING OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL**

**"WARRIOR ANGEL"**

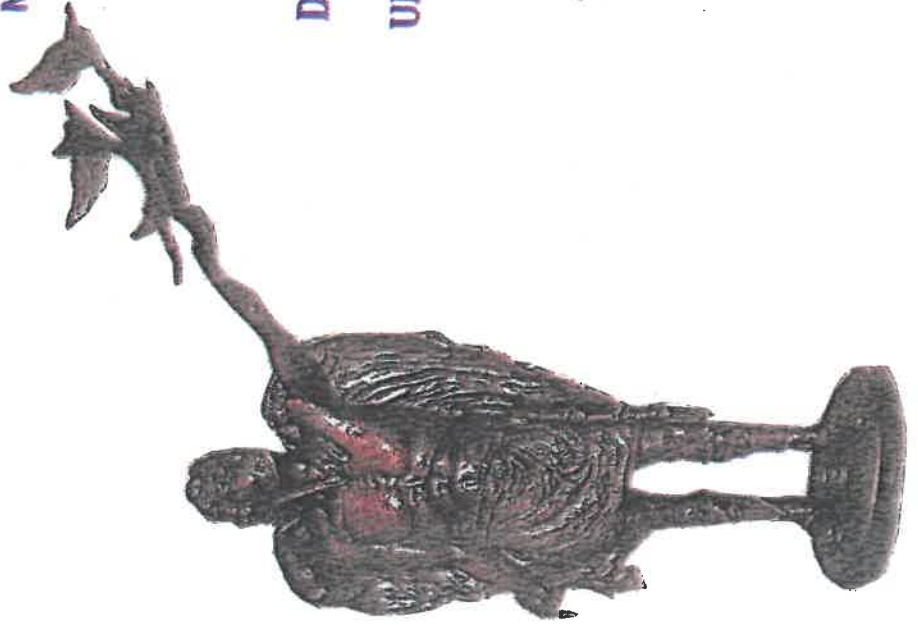
Friday Night – April 23, 2004

7:00 to 11:00 PM - Civic Center Ballroom

**KEY NOTE SPEAKER**

**CONGRESSMAN DENNY REHBERG**

RSVP 452-3972 by April 10, 2004



Benefits: State to weigh regulation repea

# GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NEWSP

FRIDAY

May 26, 2006

No. 13 — 122nd Year

www.greatfallstribune.com

## Russell Chatham

Livingston artist discusses lithography /Life



*Feature Article - Front page*  
MEMORIAL DAY

# Ready to remember



Gina McDermott sweeps up while putting the finishing touches on the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls on Thursday. A dedication ceremony is planned for Monday. Organizers expect thousands to attend.

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY ROBIN LOZMAN



You can make online comments — about opinions, today's question from Page 1M, sports and news issues — all on *The Buzz*, the Great Falls Tribune's online Forums. Check them out at: <http://GreatFallsTribune.com/forums>

# OPINION

## Editorial board

Jim Strauss, President & Publisher  
Elaine Kulhanek, Executive Editor  
Gary Moseman, Managing Editor  
Mike Grate, Production Director

# Veterans Memorial ceremony caps years of work

By its very nature, Memorial Day always includes some of the most poignant moments and ceremonies of the year. In Great Falls, Memorial Day 2006 promises to be one of the most evocative ever, because in addition to the usual ceremonial-focused activities, we'll see dedication of the new Montana Veterans Memorial on the hill overlooking Black Eagle Falls.

## OUR OPINION

The stunning memorial, which is readily visible from River Road as it passes Legion Park and Eagle Falls Golf Course, is intended to honor all veterans of all services. The hour-long ceremony begins at 8:30 p.m. with a Malmstrom Air Force Base helicopter flyover. It will include music by the University of Great Falls Community Band and the Great Falls Shrine Pipe Band.

A special treat will be participation of the mounted color guard of the 89th Cavalry of the Montana Army National Guard. Master of ceremonies will be local radio personality Dave Wilson, and there will be remarks by Mike Winters, who had the original idea for the memorial and is president of the Montana Veterans Memorial Association.

Schweitzer.

The full list of dignitaries expected for Monday evening's official ceremony is too long to detail here, but among the expected guests are U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns; former Gov. Tim Babcock; former Mayor Randy Gray; at least two Cascade County commissioners; Brig. Gen. Rex Tanberg, assistant adjutant general of Montana; Col. Scott Gilson, acting vice wing commander at Malmstrom; Maj. Tim Lincoln representing the 120th Fighter Wing, Montana Air National Guard; and Capt. Brian Martin of Malmstrom's Reconnaissance Squadron and Lt. Commander Carol McKenzie of the Helena-based Naval Reserve "Seabees," both of which played key roles in helping to construct the memorial.

ones. An online guide to the titles is available at the site, [MontanaVeteransMemorial.org](http://MontanaVeteransMemorial.org).

This memorial has been the better part of a decade in the making, and it is gratifying to see it take a place among the high points of Great Falls.

We urge you to attend the ceremony (take a lawn chair, because only limited seating is available), and we congratulate the many people whose contributions and efforts brought the memorial to life.

GUEST OPINION

# Volunteers prepare for memorial's dedication

By CHELSI MOY  
Tribune Staff Writer

Six years and thousands of labor-of-love hours later, Great Falls' first-ever Veterans Memorial is three days from being completed.

Organizers expect thousands to attend the dedication ceremony on Monday, Memorial Day.

"I'm scared of the number of people that will show," said Ted Lorenz, a veteran volunteer. "I bet there will be a couple thousand."

The horse-mounted cavalry riders from Helena and the color

## If you want to go

Great Falls Veterans Memorial celebration at 6:30 p.m. on Memorial Day, Monday May 29.

The memorial overlooks River Drive North at 26th Street.

For more information, call 454-9070.

guard from Malmstrom Air Force Base will be in attendance. Blackhawk helicopters may fly overhead. The Great Falls Shrine Bagpipe Band and the Great Falls Municipal Band will provide music.

Gov. Brian Schweitzer and Mayor Dona Stebbins will speak, as well as Michael Winters, president of the Montana Veterans Memorial Association.

"We enjoy a quality of life few others have because of the people on this memorial," said Winters, who served from 1955 to 1959 with the Air Force and from 1960 to 1964 with the Marine Corps Reserve.

Six years ago when Winters proposed a veterans memorial in Great Falls, he envisioned a six-month project costing \$30,000. Instead, the project took six

years and cost well over \$1 million, he said.

Two weeks ago, Leadership of Great Falls helped plant 160 bushes and 19 trees and lay 16,000 square feet of sod surrounding the memorial, located on the corner of River Drive North and 26th Street.

The memorial has already attracted many visitors, Winters said. He has watched as widows broke down crying after finding their deceased husbands' names on plaques.

"That is what it's all about," he said.

# Memorial: Preserving memories

FROM 1A



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY ROBIN LOZNAK

The United States flag, the Montana flag and the POW flag are raised over the Montana Veterans Memorial during a dedication celebration on Monday.

Schweitzer also spoke of going to services with families of Montana's fallen.

"In each one of those ceremonies, I reflect about, not only their families and their communities, but those who came before them, and it helps to remember these words," he said before quoting John F. Kennedy:

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and success of liberty."

Mike Winters, president of the Montana Veterans Association, quoted Gen. Douglas McCarther when he said, "Old soldiers don't die, they just fade away."

"Today, in this place we honor, with these tiles, we'll preserve those old and not-so-old soldiers and those faded memories," Winters said. "It was once said 'when you dream alone it remains a dream. When you dream with others it becomes a reality.' Look at what we've accomplished."

Six Pearl Harbor survivors also were honored at the event.

"I think it's a good tribute to those serving now and those who have

“ It was once said 'when you dream alone it remains a dream. When you dream with others it becomes a reality.' Look at what we've accomplished.

— Mike Winters, president of the Montana Veterans Association

”

served," said Hal Conrad, a Pearl Harbor survivor from Lewistown.

Ed Ostlund, a World War II veteran from Sand Coulee, and his wife Sarah, both said they enjoyed the service.

"It went good," Ed said. "It was a good turnout despite the cooler weather."

"It's nice to see people care that much," Sarah added.

As the ceremony was winding down, a cool breeze lifted U.S., Montana and POW/MIA flags as they were raised on the memorial's flag poles. Soon the sun broke free of the clouds, bathing the bronze warrior-angel in sunlight as it stood watching over the city.

## Veterans memorial to be dedicated Monday

By LAURA RITTER  
Tribune Staff Writer

Memorial Day marks the dedication of Great Falls newly completed veterans memorial.

The ceremony is at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 26. The memorial overlooks River Drive North at 26th Street.

The military presence will include horse-mounted cavalry riders representing the Helena-based 89th Cavalry of the Montana Army National Guard, a color guard from Malmstrom Air Force Base and possibly Blackhawk helicopters from Malmstrom flying overhead.

Governor Brian Schweitzer delivers the keynote address.

Other speakers include Great Falls Mayor Dona Stebbins and Mike Winters, president of the Montana Veterans Memorial Association, and several ministers and priests will offer prayers.

Great Falls Shrine Bagpipe Band and Great Falls Municipal Band provide live music.

After the ceremony, guides can help veterans and others find individual tiles, a service that continues Tuesday morning as well.

More than six years in the making, the memorial is complete, but not finished. As a living memorial, it can accommodate additional dedications for years to come.

Mike and Barbara Winters envisioned the memorial after realizing Helena had two and Great Falls had none. The community effort included site

donation by the city of Great Falls, construction by the Red Horse Squadron and Navy Seabees from Helena, and many public and private donations.

The circular site is lined with tiles bought to honor veterans, living or dead, who served in peacetime or war. At the center of the circle is a bronze statue of an angel.

Unveiled two years ago, the warrior angel has put a face on the memorial. Standing 12 feet tall (20 with the podium,) the figure holds dog tags in one hand and releases a stream of doves with the other.

"I've had really positive reactions to it," said Great Falls sculptor Marvin Brewster. "Most have really seemed to like it, to think it's really appropriate."

The memorial committee came to him with an idea and he sketched it out in clay, Brewster said. The final product pretty much reflects the original vision, he said.

One change is based on Brewster's own experience as a Vietnam veteran. Instead of the one dove originally requested, he used five.

"I added five because I was a combat hospital corpsman in Vietnam. I had five buddies die in my arms," he said. "It's my dedication to them."

It was the first time he put his Vietnam experience into his artwork, said Brewster, who usually sticks to Western subjects. For more information, call 454-9070.

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2006

—May 26

Liberal West Valley

## VETERANS MEMORIAL

# For those who serve



Montana Army National Guard Sgt. Timothy Broadbrooks plays taps at the end of the dedication for the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO BY ROBIN LOZNAK

## Gov. Schweitzer leads dedication ceremony

By CLIFTON ADCOCK  
Tribune Staff Writer

A silence fell across the crowd as a lonely bagpipe began the first stanza of "Amazing Grace," echoing hauntingly from inside the walls of the Montana Veterans Memorial.

A statue of a warrior-angel releasing five doves stood at the memorial's center above the crowd of thousands and against a backdrop of slate-gray clouds and patches of blue sky.

The five doves have a

### Inside:

President Bush leads ceremonies at national cemetery /3A

two-fold meaning — the five branches of the military and the five men who died in the sculptor's arms in Vietnam.

The dedication of the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls on Monday had its share of stirring moments

laughs and tears shed for those now overseas and those who never returned.

The memorial also features a tiled wall with names of veterans — living and dead — who have Montana connections.

"They served with honor, and now we gather to honor them," said Great Falls Mayor Dona Stebbins. "We recognize the price of freedom: precious blood shed on foreign soil and the loss of thousands of sons and daughters. Bless them all. They're not forgotten."

Keynote speaker Gov. Brian Schweitzer, who just returned from touring Iraq, said he spoke with Montana servicemen and servicewomen in the war zone and that morale was high. And, he said, the Red Horse Squadron from Malmstrom will return in about a month.

Schweitzer lauded family members who support a loved one in service, and he lauded those who gave their lives when their country called.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY ROBIN LOZNAK  
Army National Guard veteran Ray Pahrman of Whitefish salutes during the National Anthem at the dedication of the Montana Veterans Memorial.

See MEMORIAL, 5A

# Albel

Helping make you



*The Buzz*

## The Buzz

You can make online comments — opinions, Today's question from Page sports and news issues — all on The Great Falls Tribune's online Forum. Check them out at: <http://GreatFallsTribune.com/forums>

# Veterans Memo

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*Tribune "Net Ticket" FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2006 May 26*

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## Montana Veterans Memorial Association

P.O. Box 3524

Great Falls, Mont. 59403-3524

(406) 454-9070

[www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org)

### ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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#### **New computer to be installed at Montana Veterans Memorial**

**GREAT FALLS, Mont.**— After having served nine faithful years at the Montana Veterans Memorial, the computer installed in the onsite kiosk used for locating names of veterans placed on the memorial's walls has been retired.

The computer was replaced with a brand-new system designed by Touchsource of Lafayette, Colorado. The new equipment includes a thin profile, free-standing kiosk with a 32-inch high-resolution flat panel LED commercial-grade touch screen monitor and a digital media player operating TouchSource Software.

The equipment and software is rated to operate in outdoor temperatures on a 24/7 basis and meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for wheelchair access.

According to Montana Veterans Association board member retired Army Lt. Col. Richard Liebert, the addition of the modern computer equipment will help improve the interactive experience of visitors to the memorial.

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2-2-2  
COMPUTER

"The new kiosk will help friends and families locate their honored veterans with a more vivid screen and memorial panel reference. It will also provide media stories, photographs and highlight the memorial's website features and themes," said Leibert.

The equipment is designed to be dust, wind and moisture resistant. Due to COVID-19 precautions, a disinfectant station will also be installed for visitors to clean their hands and the touch screen surfaces of the equipment.

In keeping with sound environmental practices, the old computer will be sent to a local company that recycles electronics.

The new equipment and software purchase cost the Montana Veterans Memorial Association \$9,655. Recurring maintenance and operation of the memorial is supported by donations from the public and the sale of the tiles bearing the names of veterans.

Members of the local media are encouraged to attend the equipment demonstration at the memorial (date and time). Montana Veterans Memorial Association personnel will be available to demonstrate the new equipment and provide interviews for the news media following the short dedication ceremony. The memorial is located at 1009 25th Street North.

For more information, please contact Mike Winters at 799-0179 or Richard Liebert at 736-5791, [wwranch@3rivers.net](mailto:wwranch@3rivers.net).



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### ***MEDIA RELEASE***

Release No. 20-12-01

December 14, 2020

#### **Cadets dedicate memorial bench to POW/MIAs**

**By Eric Peterson, MVMA Public Relations**

**GREAT FALLS, Mont.**—A black granite bench dedicated to the memory of

our nation's military members who served during wartime as prisoners of war

or missing in action was dedicated at the Montana Veterans Memorial on

December 9, 2020.

Air Force Junior ROTC cadets assigned to Great Falls High School Detachment MT-20161 spearheaded a class project to honor POW/MIA personnel and raised more than \$2,500 needed to have the bench purchased, inscribed, and placed at the memorial.

In September, the cadets participated in the Bataan Death March memorial hike, to honor the memory of World War II American and Filipino military personnel who were force-marched while prisoners of the Imperial Japanese Army. The Americans and Filipinos were marched more than 60 miles from the Bataan Peninsula to Camp O'Donnell in the Philippine Islands.

The commemorative event that honors the military members who suffered through the Bataan Death March is held annually by AFJROTC cadets in high school detachments located throughout the nation.

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2-2-2  
BENCH

Cadet Airman 1st Class Braden Gerber considers the annual AFJROTC event a chance to save an important part of American history for posterity.

"It's slowly disappearing," Gerber said. "Not many generations to come are going to know about this, so it's better to preserve it so future generations can learn."

The local cadets hiked or ran a 14-mile course laid out on the River's Edge Trail in Great Falls and raised money in donations and pledges per mile from residents and businesses in the community.

The class initially wanted to honor the POW/MIAs by dedicating a tree at the memorial but found their fundraising efforts exceeded their original goal of raising \$500.

Cadet Capt. Chance Gerbert, a four-year student in the AFJROTC program, organized the memorial hike for his fellow cadets and came up with the idea to provide a bench in honor of the POWs and MIAs.

"I'm the group physical training leader, so it was my job in the senior staff program to conduct the march," Gerbert said. "I got to plan it and saw that there was a way to raise money for it and I saw that there wasn't anything here for the POWs and MIAs, so we figured we'd donate towards that."

The senior aerospace science instructor for the Great Falls High School AFJROTC program, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Brian Holbein, was proud of the effort his students put into honoring our nation's POW/MIAs.

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3-3-3  
BENCH

"It's very important for us to remember all veterans who served, but especially those who are unaccounted for," Holbein said. "So by bringing attention to them and to that cause, it keeps their memory alive and it keeps what they did on the forefront of why it was so important."

Montana Veterans Memorial Association board members appreciated the addition of the granite bench to the memorial.

"We are very pleased that the Air Force Junior ROTC cadets chose the Montana Veterans Memorial for their fundraising efforts," said MVMA President Michael Winters. "The bench they dedicated today will be a lasting tribute to our nation's military members who were prisoners of war or are missing in action."

The AFJROTC program has been hosted at Great Falls High School for nearly five years. The program also serves students attending Charles M. Russell High School.

The course teaches subjects such as the history of airpower, exploring space, and the science of flight. The students also take part in many extracurricular activities, like marksmanship, archery, drill team, color guard, and flag awareness.

Holbein sees AFJROTC as an opportunity for students to learn structure and citizenship and develop a work ethic that can lead to success after high school. Military service is not required following graduation.

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4-4-4  
BENCH

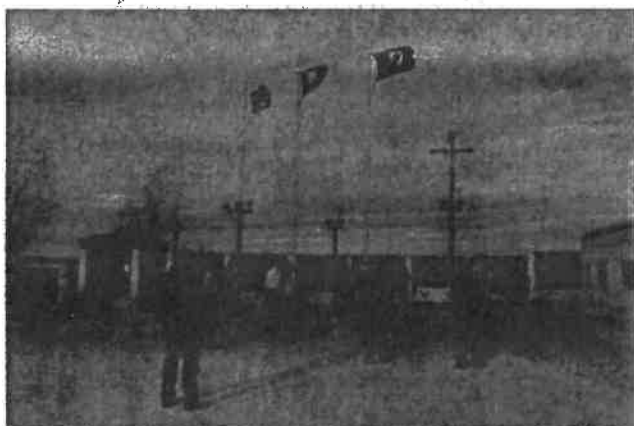
"It's an amazing program," Holbein said. "I'm surprised and a little bit disappointed that more kids in the community don't take advantage of that opportunity."

Holbein encourages students who may be interested in participating in the AFJROTC program to contact their high school counselor.

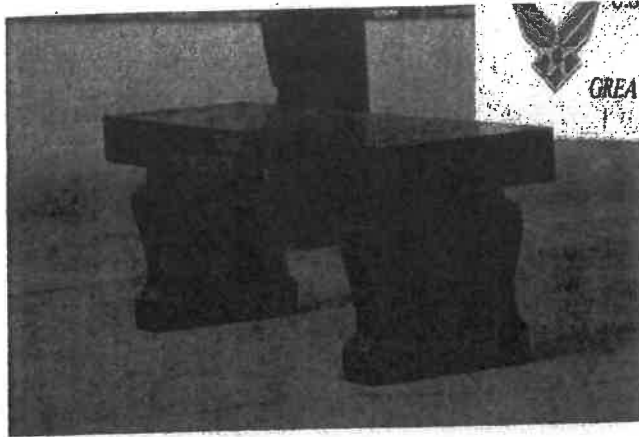
For more information on providing a tile, tree, or bench at the Montana Veterans Memorial to honor a military member, please write to Montana Veterans Memorial Association, P.O. Box 3524, Great Falls, Montana 59403. You can also contact the MVMA by calling 406-454-9070, or by emailing: [info@montanaveteransmemorial.org](mailto:info@montanaveteransmemorial.org).

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Three photographs follow.



201209-R-UJ603-033.jpg - Air Force Junior ROTC cadets assigned to the Great Falls High School Detachment MT-20161 dedicated a black granite bench at the Montana Veterans Memorial in honor of our nation's POW/MIAs. The dedication ceremony took place at the memorial in Great Falls, Mont. on December 10, 2020. Photograph by Eric Peterson.



201209-R-UJ603-048.jpg - A black granite bench was provided to the Montana Veterans Memorial by members of the Air Force Junior ROTC Detachment MT-20161 from Great Falls High School in Great Falls, Mont. The bench was dedicated in a ceremony held December 10, 2020. Photograph by Eric Peterson.



201209-R-UJ603-058.jpg - Air Force Junior ROTC Detachment MT-20161 Cadet Capt. Chance Gerbert, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor retired Air Force Lt. Col. Brian Holbein, and Cadet Airman 1st Class Braden Gerber revealed the black granite bench dedicated to POW/MIAs at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls, Mont. on December 10, 2020. Photograph by Eric Peterson.



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### ***MEDIA RELEASE***

Release No. 20-11-02

November 3, 2020

#### **New tiles added to Montana Veterans Memorial**

**By Eric Peterson, MVMA Public Relations**

**GREAT FALLS, Mont.—** Members of the Montana Veterans Memorial

Association met at the memorial November 3, 2020 to review and quality check 98 new tiles ready to be installed on its walls.

The six volunteer workers used the tailgate of MVMA President and Founder Michael Winter's pickup truck to sort and spell-check the tiles bearing the inscribed names of military veterans. Bricklayers from Cooper Masonry were scheduled to arrive later in the day to mount the stone tributes to the walls.

The members gather at the memorial to run quality assurance on new tiles twice each year-prior to Memorial Day in May and Veterans Day in November. These two national holidays provide the association an opportunity to recognize the veterans who have served their country so well.

"In today's circumstances, we've forgotten who really paid the bill for us to enjoy the freedoms we enjoy today," said Winters. "This memorial is a living memorial, so it not only represents people who are deceased, but also people who are still living," he said.

-more-



2-2-2  
TILES

Winters is proud of the fact that all of the material used for the memorial comes from the USA. The tiles are made from black granite quarried in Minnesota. Craftsmen employed by Montana Granite Industries of Great Falls then create the 7" x 10" tributes for each veteran.

The additional 98 tiles brings the total number of veterans recognized on the walls of the memorial to approximately 7,500. Winters projects that there is room for 2,400 more tiles to be placed in the future.

Memorial granite tile order forms will soon be available for veterans or the families of veterans to download from the MVMA website:

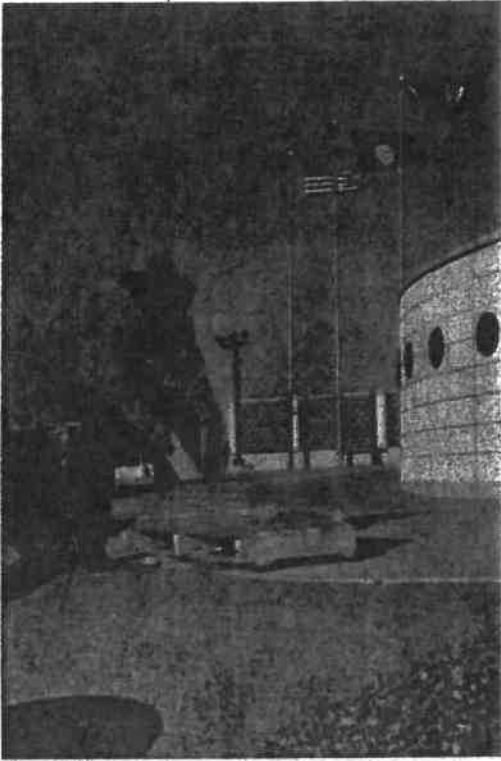
<http://montanaveteransmemorial.org> or from its Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/mtvetsmemorial>.

-30-



DSC\_4034.jpg - Members of the Montana Veterans Memorial Association quality check 98 new tiles bearing the names of military veterans. The tiles were scheduled to be mounted to the memorial's walls in Great Falls Mont. on November 3, 2020. Photo by Eric Peterson.



DSC\_4052.jpg - A member of the Montana Veterans Memorial Association selects two tiles for association members to quality check. The tiles were two of the 98 new tiles scheduled to be placed on the wall of the memorial in Great Falls, Mont. on November 3, 2020. Photo by Eric Peterson.



DSC\_4120.jpg - Tiles bearing the names of military veterans are mounted on the walls of the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls, Mont. The memorial was scheduled to add 98 more tiles to its walls on November 3, 2020. Photo by Eric Peterson.



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### ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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Release No. 20-11-01

November 2, 2020

#### **Veterans Day observance at Montana Veterans Memorial**

**By Eric Peterson, MVMA Public Relations**

**GREAT FALLS, Mont.**— A Veterans Day ceremony will be conducted

virtually at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls, Wednesday, November 11, 2020.

The public is encouraged to view the ceremony via Facebook Live on the Montana Veterans Memorial Facebook page beginning at 11 a.m. City-County Health Department guidance limits attendance at the ceremony to participants only.

Retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Starnell Darko will serve as the master of ceremonies during the event. Command Sgt. Maj. Darko last served as the sergeant major for the 652nd Regional Support Command (Rear Detachment) located at Fort Harrison, Mont.

The commander of the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Col. Anita Feugate Opperman, will provide the keynote address during the Veterans Day ceremony.

Malmstrom personnel will also participate in the ceremony. Members of the 341st Missile Wing Honor Guard will present the colors and Air Force Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Heather Bodwell will provide the invocation.

-more-

2-2-2  
VETERANS

Retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Dana Darko, Command Sgt. Maj. Darko's husband, will sing the "Star-Spangled Banner." Chief Darko last served as the 120th Maintenance Group quality assurance chief at the 120th Fighter Wing in Great Falls.

Cadets from the Air Force Junior ROTC program at Great Falls High School will lead participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A bagpipe salute will be performed by bagpiper Jesse Callender. A well-known local piper, Callender has performed for many of the past ceremonial events held at the memorial.

Disabled American Veterans 2nd Junior Vice Commander Joe Parsetich will recognize the 100th anniversary of the DAV. According to the organization's national website (dav.org), the DAV currently serves more than 1 million members and seeks to help America's 4 million disabled veterans gain access to important benefits like medical care, employment, and education.

To conclude the ceremony, Taps will be performed by a member of Detachment 688 of the Marine Corps League.

The Montana Veterans Memorial has been recognized by the Veterans Administration and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie as being an official 2020 National Veterans Day Regional Site.

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3-3-3  
VETERANS

The memorial was selected by the Veterans Day National Committee for providing a proper tribute to veterans and for serving as a role model for other communities planning Veterans Day ceremonies.

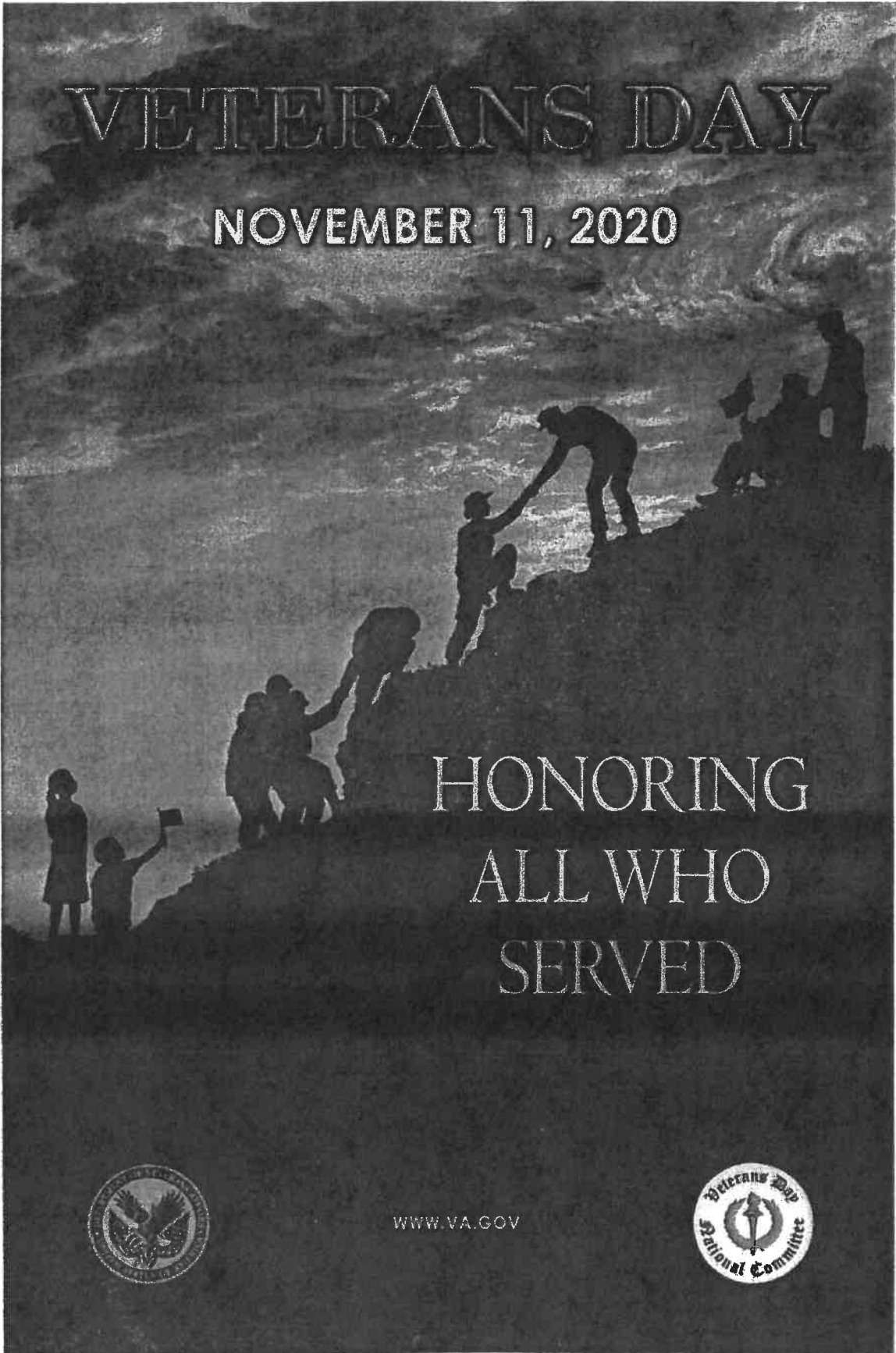
Members of the local media are encouraged to attend and cover the event. Montana Veterans Memorial representatives will be available for interviews following the ceremony.

The Montana Veterans Memorial is located at 1009 25th Street North, in Great Falls.

For more information on the Montana Veterans Memorial Veterans Day ceremony, please contact Michael Winters at 799-0179, email: [mjwinters@bresnan.net](mailto:mjwinters@bresnan.net), or Richard Liebert at 736-5791, email: [wwranch@3rivers.net](mailto:wwranch@3rivers.net).

# VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11, 2020



HONORING  
ALL WHO  
SERVED



[WWW.VA.GOV](http://WWW.VA.GOV)





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### ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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Release No. 20-10-01

October 31, 2020

#### **New computer installed at Montana Veterans Memorial**

**By Eric Peterson, MVMA Public Relations**

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Montana Veterans Memorial, the computer installed in the onsite kiosk used for locating names of veterans placed on the walls of the memorial has been retired.

The computer was replaced with a brand-new system designed by Touchsource of Lafayette, Colorado. The new equipment includes a thin profile, free-standing kiosk with a 32-inch high-resolution flat-panel LED commercial-grade touch screen monitor and a digital media player operating TouchSource Software.

The equipment is rated to operate in outdoor temperatures on a 24/7 basis and meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for wheelchair access.

According to Montana Veterans Memorial Association board member retired Army Lt. Col. Richard Liebert, the addition of the modern computer equipment will help improve the interactive experience of visitors to the memorial.

-more-

2-2-2

## COMPUTER

"The new kiosk will help friends and families locate their honored veterans with a more vivid screen and memorial panel reference. It will also provide media stories, photographs and highlight the memorial's website features and themes," said Liebert.

The equipment is designed to be dust, wind, and moisture resistant. Due to COVID-19 precautions, a disinfectant station will also be installed for visitors to clean their hands and the touch screen surfaces of the equipment.

In keeping with sound environmental practices, the old computer will be sent to a local company that recycles electronics.

The new equipment and software purchase cost the Montana Veterans Memorial Association \$9,655. Recurring maintenance and operation of the memorial is supported by donations from the public and the sale of the tiles bearing the names of veterans.

Members of the local media are encouraged to attend the memorial equipment orientation on Friday, November 6, 2020, at 11 a.m. Montana Veterans Memorial Association personnel will be available to demonstrate the new equipment and provide interviews for the news media following the short kiosk orientation.

The schedule of events for the November 11 Veterans Day ceremony will also be previewed for members of the media.

-more-



3-3-3  
Computer

The Montana Veterans Memorial is located at 1009 25th Street North.

For more information, please contact Michael Winters at 799-0179,  
email: [mjwinters@bresnan.net](mailto:mjwinters@bresnan.net), or Richard Liebert at 736-5791, email:  
[wwranch@3riyers.net](mailto:wwranch@3riyers.net).



## Montana Veterans Memorial Association

P.O. Box 3524

Great Falls, Mont. 59403-3524

(406) 454-9070

[www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org)

### ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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Release N. 20-07-01

July 21, 2020

#### **Veterans Memorial Association to welcome "Maid in the Shade"**

**By Eric Peterson, MVMA Public Relations**

**GREAT FALLS, Mont.**—Members of the Montana Veterans Memorial

Association have joined forces with Holman Aviation and the Great Falls International Airport to welcome the Commemorative Air Force Airbase Arizona (CAF) historic B-25J Mitchell bomber aircraft to Great Falls, Mont., August 3-9, 2020.

The visit to Great Falls of the World War II-era aircraft is part of the CAF Flying Legends of Victory Tour. The CAF is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) educational organization dedicated to "educate, inspire and honor through flight and living history experiences."

Nicknamed, "Maid in the Shade," the B-25J aircraft is scheduled to arrive at Holman Aviation at the Great Falls International Airport at 11 a.m. Monday, August 3.

Once the aircraft has landed, taxied and parked at Holman Aviation, the Star-Spangled Banner will be performed and members of the Montana Veterans Memorial Association and local veteran service organizations will lead the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Montana Veterans Memorial Association member retired Army Lt. Col. Richard Liebert will serve as the master of ceremonies during the event.

-more-

2-2-2  
B-25

Members of the Malmstrom Air Force Base 341st Missile Wing Honor Guard will present the colors, and 341st MW Chaplain (Capt.) Bill Mesaeh will provide the opening invocation to the event.

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Rex Tanberg will provide comments relating to his vast flying experience and his father's Army Air Corps service with the 7th Ferrying Group stationed at Gore Hill during WWII.

General Tanberg last served as the Montana National Guard Assistant Adjutant General for Air within the Joint Force Headquarters at Fort Harrison, Mont. In this position, he was responsible for developing and implementing strategy, planning guidance, and plans for more than 1,200 airmen assigned to the Montana National Guard.

Members of the flight crew assigned to the B-25J will also discuss the historic significance of the aircraft and the combat role it performed during the war.

According to the CAF, "Maid in the Shade" was used during WWII for low-level bombing and strafing missions. Out of nearly 10,000 B-25s built there are only 34 that remain in flying condition today.

The CAF will charge for ground tours and rides in the B-25J. The costs are used to support the operation and maintenance of the historic aircraft.

Members of the media will be provided exclusive access to film and tour the aircraft and interview the flight crew.

Please note there will be strict COVID-19 protocols followed during the welcoming ceremony and throughout the visit of the aircraft.

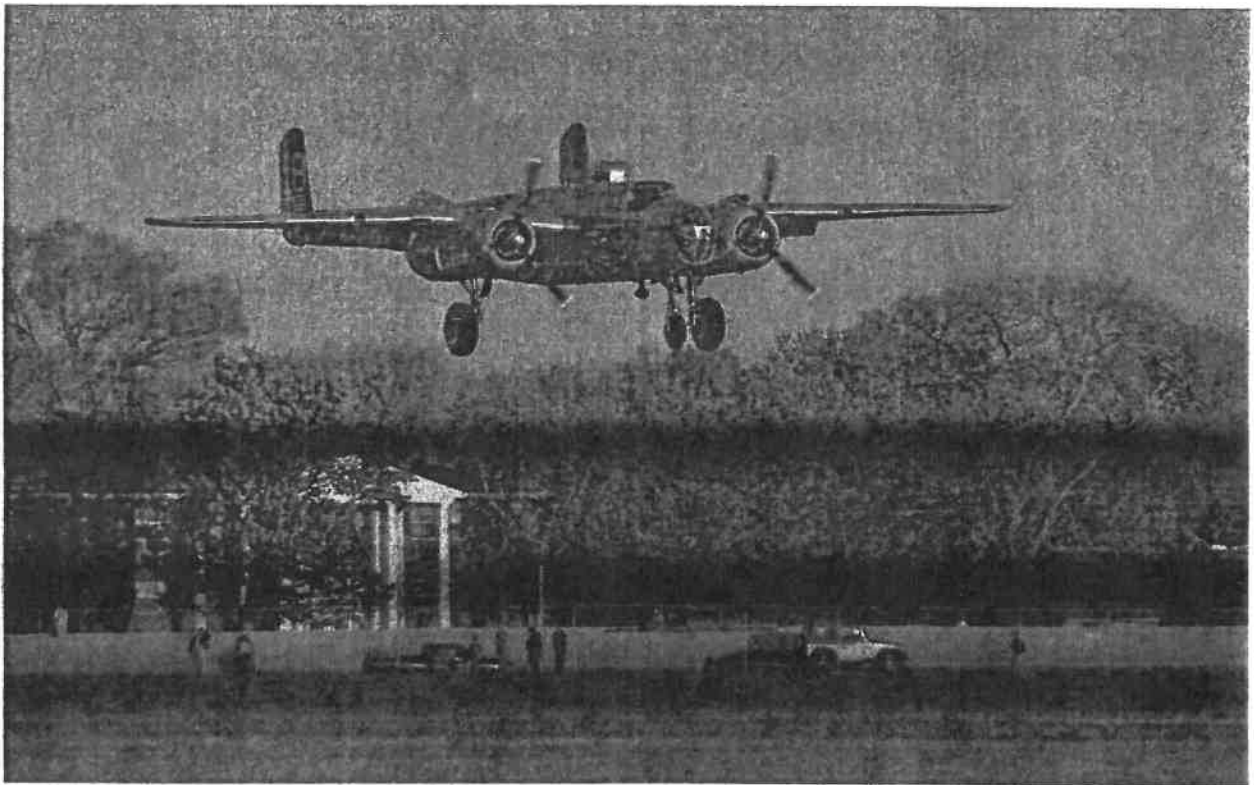
-more-

3-3-3  
B-25

For those unable to attend the event, the B-25J "Maid in the Shade" welcoming ceremony will be broadcast from Holman Aviation over Facebook Live on the Montana Veterans Memorial Association's Facebook page.

For more information on the visit to Great Falls of the B-25J "Maid in the Shade" historic aircraft, please visit <https://www.azcaf.org/tour/> or contact Mike Winters at 799-0179 or Richard Liebert at 736-5791, or email [wwranch@3rivers.net](mailto:wwranch@3rivers.net).

-30-



100417-F-2907C-377.jpg - The B-25J "Maid in the Shade" piloted by Russ Gilmore, Norman McLane and David Baker is the 13th of 17 B-25 Mitchell bombers to arrive at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, for the Doolittle Raiders' 68th reunion April 17, 2010. Maid in the Shade is based in Mesa, Arizona. U.S. Air Force photo by Lance Cheung.



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### ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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Release No. 20-05-01

May 11, 2020

#### **Memorial Day observance at Montana Veterans Memorial**

**By Eric Peterson, MVMA Public Relations**

**GREAT FALLS, Mont.**— The Montana Veterans Memorial Association has scheduled a Memorial Day ceremony to be held May 25 at 2 p.m. at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls, Mont. This year the observance will be conducted online virtually to comply with Montana Governor Steve Bullock's directives and DOD guidance to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

The online ceremony will feature an introductory welcome from the Chairman of the Montana Veterans Memorial Association and Marine Corps veteran, Dwayne Nelson. The presentation of colors will be provided by members of the Malmstrom Air Force Base Honor Guard, followed by an invocation given by Air Force Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Heather Bodwell.

Great Falls Symphony member Laura Detrick will sing the "Star-Spangled Banner" and three members of Boy Scouts of America Troop 110 will lead those participating in the ceremony in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Retired Navy Capt. Ken Robison will provide the keynote speech during the Memorial Day event. His speech will focus on a historical perspective of previous crises and how we'll move forward as a nation.

-more-

2-2-2  
MEMORIAL

A traditional bagpipe salute will be performed by local Great Falls bagpiper Jesse Callendar.

Kathy Austin, chairwoman of the Montana Gold and Blue Star Families Memorial Markers, will provide a Gold Star Marker dedication at the memorial.

Members of the Marine Corps League, Detachment 688 will provide a boots, rifle and helmet remembrance for those individuals who have died while serving as members of the United States military.

To conclude the ceremony, a Charles M. Russell High School trumpet player will sound Taps on his trumpet to honor those service members who have passed.

According to Memorial Day Master of Ceremonies and retired Army Lt. Col. Richard Liebert, even though citizens cannot attend the Memorial Day ceremony in person at the memorial this year due to the COVID-19 situation, it's still important on this day to recognize and honor the men and women who have died while serving as members of the United States military, especially our fallen Montanans since 9/11. "While in this national crisis we must all still strive to achieve the Constitution's call for 'a more perfect union,' no matter what state or city is suffering as 'E Pluribus Unum' calls for, as it means 'from many we are one,'" said Liebert.

-more-

3-3-3  
MEMORIAL

The public can view a live or delayed video of the ceremony on the Montana Veterans Memorial Facebook page. Video of the event will also be posted following the ceremony online at the Montana Veterans Memorial website, montanaveteransmemorial.org. A live radio broadcast is also being considered.

The memorial was dedicated during a ceremony held on Memorial Day in 2006 and the walls originally displayed tiles bearing the names of 2,774 veterans. More than eighty new tiles will be added to the current 7,237 veterans now honored at the memorial.

Participants will be asked to respect social distancing while visiting the memorial before and after the ceremony.

Members of the media are encouraged to attend the ceremony to document the event. Strict social distancing restrictions will be followed.

For more information on the Memorial Day ceremony at the Montana Veterans Memorial, please contact Mike Winters at 799-0179 or Richard Liebert at 736-5791, wwranch@3rivers.net.



## Montana Veterans Memorial Association

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### ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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Release No. 21-04-01

April 1, 2021

**Improvements made at the Montana Veterans Memorial  
By Eric Peterson, MVMA Public Relations**

**GREAT FALLS, Mont.**—A new fence was added and updated exterior lighting is planned to be installed at the Montana Veterans Memorial, located at Veterans Memorial Park near Centene Stadium. The new fence will protect the lighting that will illuminate the "Warrior Angel" statue located in the inner portion of the memorial.

Specialty Iron Works manufactured the fence material and constructed it at the memorial on January 26. The new lighting fixtures are scheduled to be wired and installed at the memorial soon.

According to the Montana Veterans Memorial Association President Michael Winters, this new addition to the memorial will help advance the association's maintenance goals.

"The Montana State Legislature has recognized this memorial as being a Montana state memorial, so it's important that we continue to make improvements to this beautiful tribute to our veterans," Winters said.

-more-



2-2-2  
FENCE

The lighting is currently mounted into the concrete at the base of the statue. Lamps were continually burning out due to the excessive heat generated in the ground-mounted fixtures. Raising the three light fixtures up four feet will help cool the lamps and save the association the cost of repeated lamp replacement.

While the new ornamental fence will protect memorial visitors from the raised lighting, it will also serve to highlight the plaque at the base of the statue that recognizes the Medal of Honor recipients from Montana.

The volunteer members of the MVMA continue to maintain the site and are focused on adding future improvements to the memorial that was built to honor all veterans, both living and deceased.

"We have a classic site at the memorial that has evolved into so much more than when we first started," Winters said. "We've made so many improvements and I think we ought to continue doing that."

For more information on the memorial, please contact Michael Winters at 799-0179, email: [mjwinters@bresnan.net](mailto:mjwinters@bresnan.net), or Richard Liebert at 736-5791, email: [wwranch@3rivers.net](mailto:wwranch@3rivers.net).

3-3-3  
FENCE

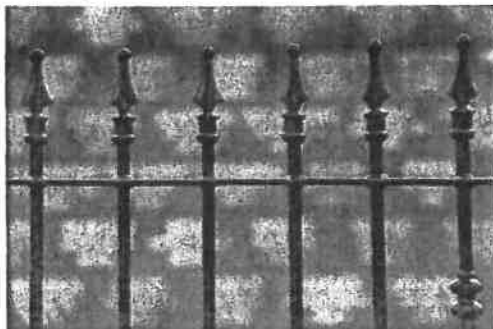
Three photographs follow.



210129-R-UJ603-010.jpg - The bronze "Warrior Angel" statue stands on its base surrounded by protective fencing at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls, Mont. on January 29, 2021. Photograph by Montana Veterans Memorial Association Public Relations Specialist Eric Peterson.



210129-R-UJ603-030.jpg - Tiles bearing the names of veterans can be seen through the wrought iron fence recently installed at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls, Mont. Photograph by Montana Veterans Memorial Association Public Relations Specialist Eric Peterson.



210129-R-UJ603-032.jpg - This is a close up view of the wrought iron fence constructed at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls, Mont. The fence protects visitors to the memorial from raised light fixtures that illuminate the "Warrior Angel" statue. Photograph by Montana Veterans Memorial Association Public Relations Specialist Eric Peterson.

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS,** *The Montana Veterans Memorial, Inc., a non-profit corporation has been officially recognized and endorsed by governmental leaders, and*

**WHEREAS,** *The Montana Veterans Memorial Committee is embarking on a program to build a Veterans Memorial in Great Falls. The proceeds of fundraising campaigns are used exclusively for constructing the Veterans Memorial. Said Memorial will be known as "A Place of Honor;" and*

**WHEREAS,** *The basic purpose of the Veterans Memorial is eloquently reflected in the desire to Honor and Recognize all Veterans of Military Service to the United States of America, in peace and war.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, RANDY GRAY,** *urge freedom spirit citizens to support our Veterans Memorial with gratitude to the men and women of this country, who have risked their lives in defense of the freedom which we continue to enjoy as American citizens.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the City to be affixed this 7th day of May, 2002.*



*Randall H. Gray*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randall H. Gray  
Mayor



**State of Montana**



**Governor's Citation**



*The Governor's Citation is hereby presented to:*

***The Montana Veterans  
Memorial Committee***

*In recognition of your outstanding commitment to the Veterans of Great Falls and the surrounding communities by providing "A Place of Honor" to recognize and remember men and women veterans of all services, including those of the National Guard, Reserves, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine and those Montana veterans who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.*

***Congratulations!***



Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May 2006



Governor Brian Schweitzer



UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

JON TESTER  
MONTANA

May 27, 2009

Lt. Col. Richard Liebert (Ret)  
289 Boston Coulee Rd  
Great Falls, MT 59405

Dear Rich:

I appreciate you inviting me to speak at the Memorial Day observance in Great Falls. It was an honor and a privilege to stand up and recognize the tremendous sacrifices our fighting men and women have made on behalf of our nation.

Also, I was quite impressed with the Memorial. It is a beautiful reminder for the community that our freedom is not free. You and those responsible for making it a reality should be very proud of bringing such a remarkable asset to Great Falls and the state of Montana.

Thank you for the invitation and for everything that you do for our veterans.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Tester".

Jon Tester  
United States Senator

**MONDAY, MAY 28**

**LIBRARY CLOSURE**, Great Falls Public Library, 301 2nd Ave. N. The library is closed in observance of Memorial Day. 453-0349.

**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**, 2 p.m., Veterans Memorial Park, 1025 25th St. N. The ceremony will include keynote speaker Eric Newhouse, Army veteran and Pulitzer Prize recipient. Other people present at the ceremony include Commissioner Bill Bronson, Montana Veterans Memorial Association chairman Dwayne Nelson, Pastor Marcus Collins and Regent Char Ross of DAR Black Eagle Assiniboine Chapter, among others. Ceremony will be in Centene Stadium if weather is an issue. 454 9070.

# What's hot

# Memorial Day ceremony,

2018



The Malmstrom Air Force Base Honor Guard present the colors at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls in 2015. U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/CHRIS WILLIS

## Journalist advocates for proper vet care

**Traci Rosenbaum**  
Great Falls Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Great Falls honors fallen military members with a Memorial Day ceremony at the Montana Veterans Memorial on Monday, May 28.

The ceremony starts at 2 p.m. with a welcome by Dwayne Nelson, chairman of the Montana Veterans Memorial Association.



**Eric Newhouse**

The afternoon's keynote speaker is Eric Newhouse. Newhouse is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and a military veteran who was drafted into the Army in 1968 and discharged honorably in 1970.

As projects editor for the Great Falls Tribune, Newhouse won the Pulitzer Prize in 2000. Honored was a 12-part series of stories that Newhouse wrote about alcohol abuse titled "Alcohol: Cradle to Grave." That became the basis for his first book of the same title.

After the terrorist attacks on 9/11, Newhouse wrote extensively about modern-era vets to get them the help his generation got only belatedly. That endeavor evolved into his second book, "Faces of Combat: PTSD & TBI." A sequel to that book, "Faces of Recovery: Treatments that work for PTSD, TBI and Moral Injury," has just been published.

Other community leaders will make remarks during the event, and a number of groups contribute to the music and the ceremony, including the Malmstrom Air Force Base Honor Guard, Boy and Girl Scouts of America, Sound of the Falls Harmony Chorus, Great Falls Shrine Pipe Band, Black Eagle Assiniboine Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Marine Corps League.

In the event of bad weather, the ceremony will be moved indoors to the Centene Stadium lobby.

For more information, call 406-454-9070 or visit [www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org).

Reach Tribune Staff Writer Traci Rosenbaum at 791-1490. Follow her on Twitter @GFTRib\_TRosenba.

Memorial Day ceremony

GREATFALLTRIBUNE.COM/NOTTICKET | FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2018 |

features Pulitzer winner

# Montana



The Memorial Day ceremony gets underway at Montana Veterans Memorial in 2016.



# Fallen military members to be honored at event

2018 MEMORIAL DAY

Paul Rosenbaum  
Great Falls Tribune  
A TODAY NETWORK

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In the event of bad weather, the ceremony will be moved indoors to the Centene Stadium lobby.



A single rose taped to a tile honors a soldier during the Memorial Day and 10th anniversary ceremony at Montana Veterans Memorial. TRIBUNE PHOTOS/JULIA MOSS

The afternoon's keynote speaker is Eric Newhouse. Newhouse is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and a military veteran who was drafted into the Army in 1968 and discharged honorably in 1970.



**Sean Lynch honors his grandfather, retired Master Sergeant Thomas William Lynch Sr., with his Eagle Scout project. Sean put together a permanent box for people to properly retire worn American flags. PHOTOS BY SARAH DETTMER/TRIBUNE**

# Eagle Scout candidate honors his grandfather

## Lynch focused project on retiring flags respectfully

**Sarah Dettmer**  
Great Falls Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

An old American flag should always be retired with dignity.

On Memorial Day, 15-year-old Sean Lynch stood in front of a crowd of more than 200 people at Veterans Memorial Park and presented the community with a specially made box to ensure old flags are respectfully retired after they become too worn and tattered.

Lynch is an Eagle Scout candidate and decided to focus his Eagle Scout project on the flag as a tribute to his grandfather, retired Master Sgt. Thomas William Lynch Sr.

The 15-year-old unveiled the special box at the 13th annual Memorial Day celebration in Great Falls as his grandfather watched from the crowd. The metal receptacle was installed on the west side of Veterans Memorial Park by Centene Stadium. Lynch's Boy Scout troop will periodically check the bin, remove any deposited flags and respectfully dispose of them, per the Boy Scouts of American handbook.

"It took me a while to come up with a project, but then seeing the disrespect people were showing the flag — football was the main one — I thought I needed to do something that involved the flag," Lynch said.

After Lynch explained the story behind the box, he held up a neatly folded flag to show the crowd. The flag flew outside his home in Great Falls for years. In honor of his grandfather, the old flag would be the first to be deposited in the retired flag box.

Lynch choked up for a moment as he looked through the crowd at his family.

"This is in honor of my grandfather," Lynch said.

After the ceremony, Lynch was met with a line of people wanting to thank him and shake his hand.

"It's important that their (Eagle Scout) projects mean



Sean Lynch, 15, put together a box for retired American flags as part of his Eagle Scout project. Lynch presented the box at the 2018 Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park.

## The metal receptacle was installed on the west side of Veterans Memorial Park.

something to them," Mary Matelich, vice president of public relations for the Boy Scouts of American Montana Council, said. "It's on them to raise the funds or get sponsors, organize their troop members to get the project done and then present a report to the Eagle Scout board of review."

Lynch said he will stand before the board next month to describe his project and find out if he will be honored with the rank of Eagle Scout.

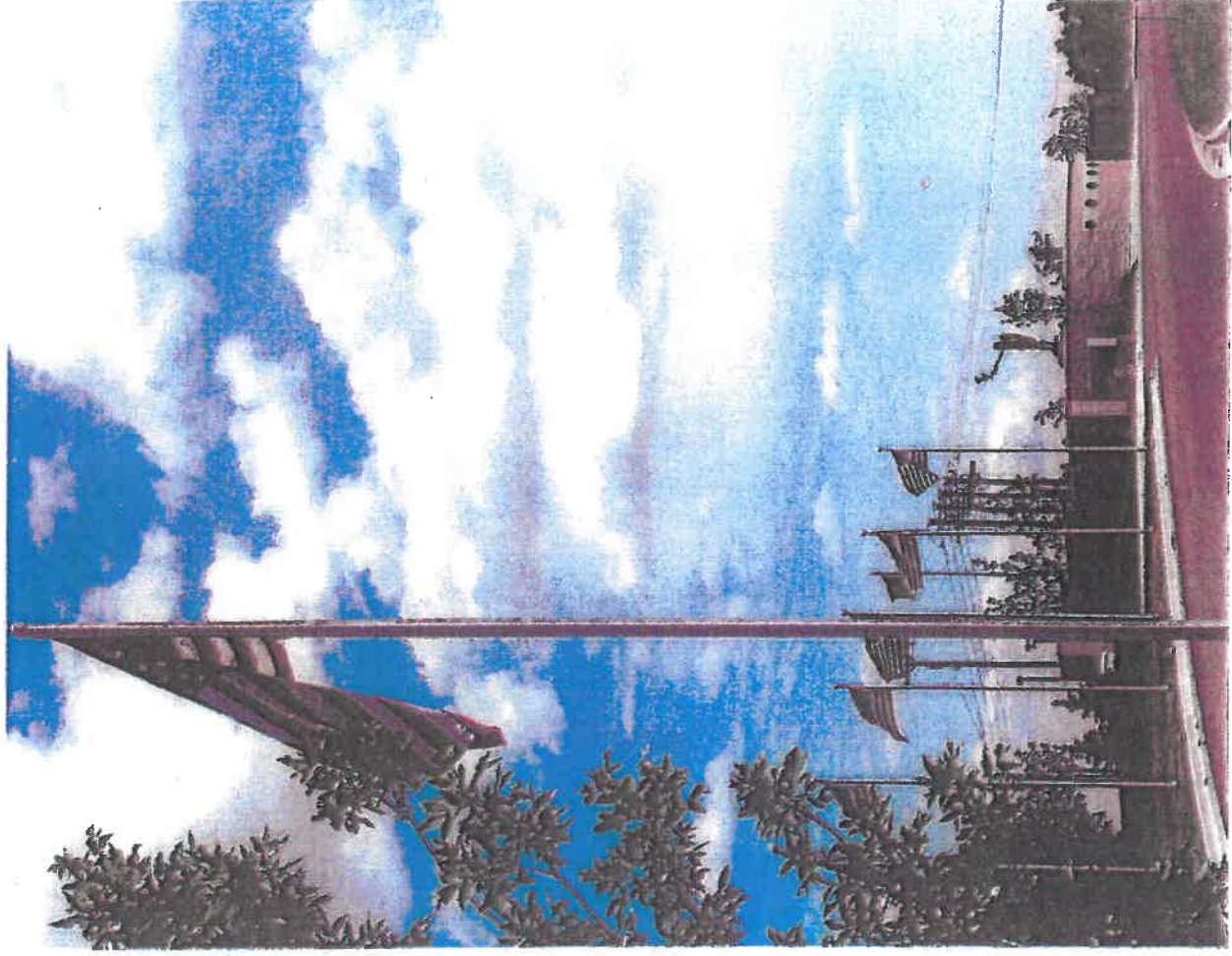
## Montana's Fallen Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan

Army PFC Kristofer Stonesifer, Missoula  
 Army Reserve 1st Lt. Edward Saltz, Big Fork  
 Army PFC Owen D. Witt, Sand Springs  
 Marine Cpl. Dean Pratt, Stevensville  
 Marine Lance Cpl. Kane Funke, Kalispell  
 Army Staff Sgt. Aaron Holleyman, Glasgow  
 Marine Cpl. Raleigh C. Smith, Troy  
 Marine Lance Corporal Nicholas Bloem, Lewistown  
 Mt. Army NG Sgt. 1st Class Robbie McNary, Belgrade  
 Army 1st Lt. Josh Hyland, Missoula  
 Army Sgt. Travis Arndt, Great Falls  
 Marine PFC Andrew Bedard, Missoula  
 Army Cpt. Michael MacKinnon, Helena  
 Marine Cpl. Phillip Baucus, Wolf Creek  
 Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy Sandvick Monroe, Chinook  
 Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Charles Komppa, Absarokee  
 Army PFC Shawn Murphy, Butte  
 Marine Lance Cpl. Nicklas Palmer, Great Falls  
 Army Spc. Scott Dykman, Harrison  
 Army Spc. James Riekema, Missoula  
 Army PFC Matthew Zeimer, Glendive  
 Army Staff Sgt. Shane Becker, Helena  
 Army PFC Kyle Bohmsen, Phillipsburg  
 Army Spc. Michael Frank, Great Falls  
 Army SSG Travis Atkins, Bozeman  
 Army Spc. Donald Young, Helena  
 Army Staff Sgt. Yance Gray, Ismay  
 Army Cpt. Andrew Pearson, Billings  
 Army Sgt. James A. McHale, Fairfield  
 Marine Sgt. Trevor Johnson, Forsyth  
 Army Lt. Col. Garnet R. Derby, Missoula  
 Army Staff Sgt. Terry Lynch, Shepherd  
 Marine Cpl. Nicholas Uzenski, Bozeman  
 Army Sgt. Jeremiah Whittman, Darby  
 Army PFC, Nicholas S. Cook, Hungry Horse  
 Army Spc. Jonathan A. Pilgeram, Eden  
 Army PFC, Michael A. Rogers, White Sulphur Springs  
 Marine Cpl. Stewart S. Trejo, Whitefish  
 Army PFC Daren A. Smith, Helena  
 Army PVT Timothy J. Hutton, Dillon  
 Army Spc. Antonio Bunside (Many Hides), Browning  
 Navy Tech Airman Andrew Scott Charpentier, Great Falls  
 Army Staff Sgt. Thaddeus S. Montgomery, West Yellowstone  
 Army PFC Michael A. Rogers, White Sulphur Springs  
 Marine Cpl. Stewart S. Trejo, Whitefish

## Montana Ties:

Marine Lance Cpl. Nathan Wood  
 Army SSG Patrick L. Lybert  
 Army Sgt. Lucas T. White  
 Army Sgt. Michael Sturdivant  
 Army Sgt. John K. Daggett  
 Army Staff Sgt. Shane Barnard

# A PLACE OF HONOR



# MEMORIAL DAY 2018

**Eric Newhouse** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and a military veteran who was drafted into the Army in 1968 and honorably discharged in 1970. After the terrorist attacks on 9-11, he wrote extensively about modern-era vets to get them the help his generation got only belatedly. That evolved into his second book: Faces of Combat: PTSD & TBI. A sequel to that book, titled Faces of Recovery: Treatments that work for PTSD, TBI and Moral Injury, has just been published.

As Projects Editor for the Great Falls Tribune, Newhouse won the Pulitzer Prize in 2000, beating out a couple of vastly larger rivals: the Portland Oregonian and the New York Times. Honored was a 12-part series of stories that Newhouse wrote about alcohol abuse, titled "Alcohol: Cradle to Grave." That became the basis for his first book, also called Alcohol: Cradle to Grave.



## How to Properly Dispose of an American Flag

When an American flag becomes worn, faded, torn or soiled, it should be retired and replaced with a new flag. There are several ways to respectfully dispose of the American flag without showing disgrace. The most common method is a special ceremony where the flag is folded, burned completely as a salute and honors are made. Then the ashes are buried.

Our local Boy Scouts of America will establish a secure U.S. Flag receiving container for unserviceable flags that will be placed at the Montana Veterans Memorial for the public's benefit. The flags will be disposed of with dignity and respect by the scouts, with proper honors.

**Memorial Day 28 May 2018**  
**2 PM, Montana Veterans Memorial, Great Falls, MT**

**Welcome**..... Dwayne Nelson, Chairman,  
Montana Veterans Memorial Assoc. (MVMA)

**Master of Ceremonies**..... Richard Liebert, Lt. Col (Ret.), USAR

**Presentation of the Colors**..... Malmstrom AFB Honor Guard,  
Veterans Groups

**Invocation**..... Chaplain Paul Castillo, LTC, USAF, Malmstrom AFB

**National Anthem**..... Sound of the Falls Harmony Chorus

**Pledge of Allegiance**..... Boy Scouts of America

**Keynote Speaker**..... Eric Newhouse, Army Veteran,  
Great Falls Tribune Pulitzer Prize recipient

**'God Bless America**..... Sound of the Falls Harmony Chorus

**Fallen Montana Veterans of Iraq  
& Afghanistan Salute**..... Military Detail

**'Bagpipe Salute'**..... Great Falls Shrine Pipe Band Pipers

**Benediction**..... Pastor Marcus Collins, Alexander Temple of God in Christ

**Taps**..... Marine Corps League

### MONTANA VETERANS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

The association established and maintains this memorial to honor and recognize all veterans of all branches of military service to the United States of America, in peace and in war. A Veteran is defined as any man or woman of any age who has served in any branch of the military of the United States of America in any capacity, and to honor men and women living and deceased equally. Memorial tiles are available for \$225. Contact the MVMA with your request at:

Montana Veterans Memorial Association  
PO Box 3524 • Great Falls, Montana 59403-3524  
Phone (406) 454-9070

Website: [www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org)

# Spotlights

AREA • NARRATIVES • HUMAN INTEREST • TRENDS

## A Fitting Tribute to Those Who've Served

BY AARON PARRETT

The Montana Veterans Memorial overlooking the Missouri River at the north end of Great Falls stands as a stately shrine of honor for all who have served our country in the Armed Services. It's a beautifully landscaped presence in a city with a long connection to military service, and it's Montana's largest veterans' memorial.

Military historian Ken Robison of Great Falls, who himself had a long career in Naval Intelligence, speaks very highly of the memorial and of the efforts of locals like former Great Falls Mayor Mike Winters.

"I've been impressed with the way it has been run and managed," Robison remarked. "They've been very wise about promotion and making sure they have been inclusive of everyone."

The idea for the memorial came at the suggestion of Winters' wife, Barbara. The two had gone to Helena for a medical visit at Fort Harrison, and they both were impressed by the various memorials to service members in Helena, including Memorial Park.

"My wife said to me, 'We don't have a memorial like that in Great Falls. Why don't you get some of your pals together and build one?'" Winters recalled. "So I did. We went from a group of five or six of us all

kicking in a hundred bucks apiece at the beginning to now having raised over \$1.8 million. We have no debt, and we're not dependent on government money. The Red Horse Squad at Malmstrom and a Montana Seabees

Unit together contributed about \$450,000 in volunteer labor."

Winters served in the Air Force (stationed in Great Falls) and also has four years in the Marine Corps Reserve.

The memorial itself occupies some prime real estate along the river, overlooking the Black Eagle Dam and the old Smelter works on the north bank.

"It's a natural location," Robison noted, "and there's great parking with the ball field (Centene Stadium)."

Designed by Great Falls architect Gene Davidson, the site happens to have a military history.

"When John Jay Pershing was stationed at Ft. Assiniboine up near Havre, he bivouacked on that very spot," said Winters.

The memorial was dedicated on May 29, 2006, though more recently it became granted official memorial status when the state legislature passed HB 460 in 2015, and Governor Steve Bullock signed the provision into law. That official designation ensures that the site appears marked on official state maps.

Beginning in 2009, veterans who are in some way associated with Montana have had their names etched in special tiles, which have been affixed to the memorial walls. Over a thousand veterans have thus been honored, and more names are added every year.

One of the more remarkable ceremonies the memorial has hosted recently was the addition of around 200 tiles honoring Blackfeet warriors in 2016. The special effort



Based on Celtic legend, the statue of the warrior with sword sheath is meant to represent that we are a peaceful nation, but we are also ready to defend. "Warrior Angel" bronze statue by Marvin Brewster. PHOTO BY JONATHAN RIMMEL

to honor the Blackfeet was initiated by then-Great Falls Mayor Mike Winters along with the Montana Veterans Memorial Committee, who presented a formal invitation to the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council (BTBC).

The BTBC contributed \$26,000 to the effort, to commemorate Blackfeet servicemen and servicewomen.

"We went to Browning to talk to the Tribal Council because it was our feeling that the Blackfeet warriors are overlooked," said Winters. "We wanted to change that, and many of those tiles honoring Blackfeet have their names listed in the Blackfeet language."

The memorial itself is a fitting design to inspire reflection on the selfless contribution of Montana's veterans: a wall 5 feet high and 50 feet in diameter, encircling a

cast bronze Warrior Angel statue that stands over 12 feet high. Montana artist Marvin Brewster, a Navy veteran who passed away in 2006, designed the memorial.

Outside of the central circle is another curved wall that runs nearly 100 feet. The tiles honoring veterans are of black marble and attach to the walls. The pedestal supporting Brewster's statue is 8 feet high and holds a bronze plaque honoring all eight Montanans who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

That decoration, according to its official U.S. government website, "is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force, which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States."

The Montana Veterans Memorial Association contains a wealth of information about Montana veterans. The site also makes clear that a veteran does not have to be from Montana to be honored, nor does the honoree have to reside in Montana, as the MVMA "honors and recognizes all veterans of all branches of military service to the United States of America, in peace and in war."

That distinction is important, as the memorial does not specifically honor veterans of any specific war, and it honors both veterans who may have died in service as well as those who are living.

Winters is especially proud of the inclusive nature of the memorial, reminding visitors that it is a living memorial.

"It's a representation of all the men and women, and even canines, who have served to ensure our freedoms," he said. "It's a monument to the idea that our freedom and honor is never fully paid for, and it belongs to everyone."

Similarly, Winters is adamant on the point that "no one person can take credit for this memorial — it truly is a team effort." MSN

## MONTANA VETERANS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

The association established and maintains this memorial to honor and recognize all veterans of all branches of military service to the United States of America, in peace and in war. A Veteran is defined as any man or woman of any age who has served in any branch of the military of the United States of America in any capacity, and to honor men and women living and deceased equally. Memorial tiles are available at \$225. Contact the MVMA with your request at:

Montana Veterans Memorial Committee, Inc.  
PO Box 3524  
Great Falls, Montana 59403-3524  
Phone (406) 454-9070

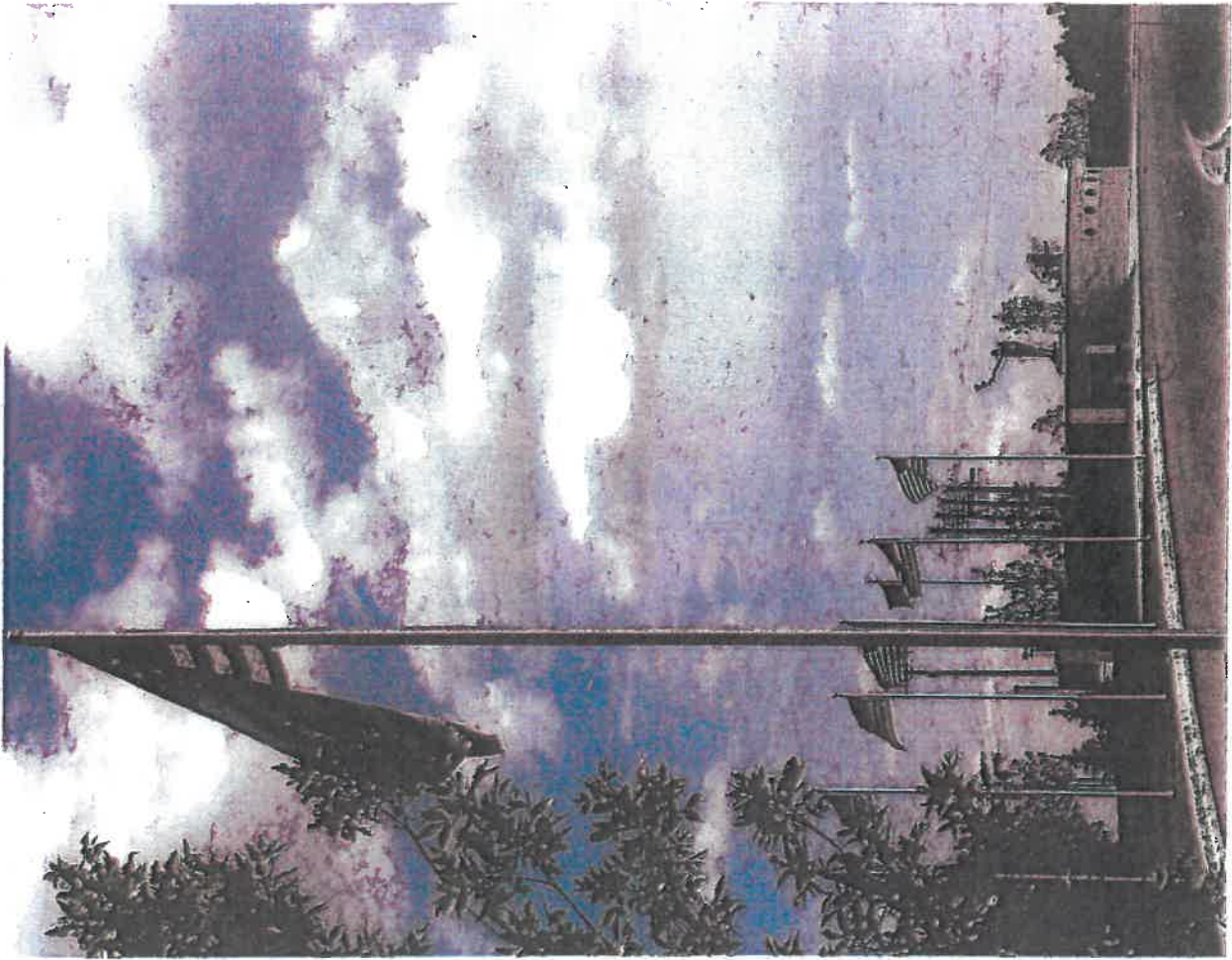
Website: [www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org)

Non-Profit Tax ID #0530543

## THE HISTORY OF VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day was originally incorporated by President Wilson as **Armistice Day** in 1919 in recognition of the sacrifices made by Americans in World War I. Other countries today recognize November 11th as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in honor of the Armistice Treaty which ended WWI. In 1938, Armistice Day was officially recognized as an American holiday. After WWII, citizens felt that the veterans of all wars should be recognized. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Congress changed the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1978, the **observance of Veterans Day was returned to November 11th** by popular sentiment; and is why we honor it at the *11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month is in remembrance of the original Armistice day of World War I in 1918* when hostilities came to an end between Germany and the allied powers. (followed by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919)

## A PLACE OF HONOR



## VETERANS DAY NOV. 11, 2018



**COLONEL JENNIFER K. REEVES** assumed command of the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base in June 2018 and leads the wing's 4,000 service members to defend the USA with combat ready warriors and nuclear forces. This includes base support, maintenance, security and operation of the Minuteman III ICBM, 15 missile alert posts and 150 launch sites throughout central Montana. She was commissioned through the US Air Force ROTC in 1993 at San Diego State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering and then onto operations with missile warning satellites, the Minuteman III ICBM, space-based infrared Systems, missile combat crew assignments, including operations, training and instruction and commanded the 381st Training Group at Vandenberg AFB prior to her current command.

Colonel Reeves has had numerous joint assignments, including overseas service with US Central Command and with Space Command, Northern Command, NORAD, and at the Pentagon on Joint Staff as Chief, National Military Command Operations Division. Colonel Reeves also earned a Master's Degree in physics in 1997 from Univ. of Colorado, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Air War College and graduated the Joint Forces Staff College at Norfolk, VA in 2009. Her many awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal, Global War of Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star device.

**JOE PARSETTICH** joined the Air Force in 1968 and served in combat at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam with the 377th Security Police Squadron, 68-69, and then honorably discharged in 1972. Joe was elected National 3rd Junior Vice Commander of the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) of the over 1 million members of the DAV.

He was appointed by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David Shulkin in 2017 to serve on the Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee and continues in that duty under the new VA Secretary Robert Wilke. Joe is very active locally as a coordinator and mentor for the Veterans Treatment Court. He hosts the "On Point - Veterans Talk Radio" show on local KGPR public radio 89.9 FM in Great Falls and serves on boards to help end Veteran Homelessness in Great Falls, the Cascade County Suicide Prevention Team, and the Veterans Advisory Council for the Great Falls Vet Center.

Joe has received many local honors from service groups including the DAR in 2017 and was the first 'non-Marine' to earn the 'Distinguished Citizens Award' from the Marine Corps League on June 19, 2018. He has also served as a DAV volunteer van driver and on the Military Funeral Honor Guard. Parsettich and his wife, Meg, reside in Great Falls and together have seven children, three foster children, 32 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**MONTANA VETERANS MEMORIAL  
Veterans Day Ceremony  
11:00 a.m. - Sunday - November 11, 2018  
Great Falls, Montana**

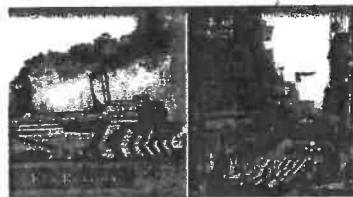
- Master of Ceremonies** ..... Dwayne Nelson, Chair,  
Montana Veterans Memorial Association
- Welcome** ..... Richard Liebert, Lt. Col (Ret. Army),  
Montana Veterans Memorial Association
- Presentation of the Colors** ..... Malmstrom AFB Honor Guard,  
Veterans Groups
- Invocation**..... Chaplain Paul Castillo, Lt. Col. USAF  
Malmstrom Air Force Base
- National Anthem** ..... Great Falls Central Catholic High School Choir
- Pledge of Allegiance** .... Junior ROTC Cadets, USAF, Great Falls High
- Guest Speakers**..... Colonel Jennifer K. Reeves, USAF,  
Commander, Malmstrom AFB;  
Joe Parsettich, Nat'l 3rd Vice Cdr, Disabled American Veterans
- Military Music**..... Jesse Callender, Great Falls Shrine Band Pipers
- Remarks**..... Congressional representatives and  
Commissioner Bill Bronson, Great Falls
- 'Over There' WWI patriotic song**..... GF Central Catholic HS Choir
- Boots and Rifle ceremony, WWI**..... Marine Corps League, Det 688
- Benediction**..... Deacon Bob Ferguson, Central Catholic High School
- Taps**..... Marine Corps League, Det 688



A World War I Remembrance



**WORLD WAR I  
MONTANA**  
..... ★ .....  
**THE TREASURE STATE PREPARES**



## World War I Montana: The Treasure State Prepares

One hundred years ago, on April 6, 1917, the United States went into a war, a conflict that would have a profound effect at home and abroad. For Montana, this was a war of opportunity for many, trouble for some, and change for all. On that fateful day, the United States at last entered a European war, a war that had been raging since 1914.

The oceans around us were shrinking, and the world, the U.S., and Montana would never be the same.

It is hard today to comprehend how vitally important, Montana, The Treasure State's forestry, mining, smelting, refining, agriculture, and people were to the national war effort. It has been said, with a lot of truth to it, that every bullet fired in World War I was encased in Butte copper, and the world was "wired" by copper from Great Falls refineries. In addition, Montana's amber waves of grain helped feed a starving world. And, Montana's cowboys, miners, foresters, farmers, nurses and other women, went to war to win, under the battle cry, "Powder River, Let 'Er Buck!" that would resonate on the battlefields in France. Montana men served in The Great War in a greater percentage than any other state.

World War I Montana: The Treasure State Prepares covers the dramatic first year of the war, as the U.S. and Montana mobilized and prepared for a decisive role in The Great War.

*Excerpt from Captain (US Navy, Retired) Ken Robison's fascinating new book about Montana and World War One which focused on the year of preparation.*

This year marks the 100th anniversary of America's involvement in World War I and going 'Over There' in 1917 as reflected in this Wikipedia commentary:

The United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, during World War I. The U.S. was an independent power and did not officially join the Allies. The U.S. made its major contributions in terms of supplies, raw material and money. Starting in 1917, American soldiers under General John Pershing, Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Force, arrived in large numbers on the Western Front in the summer of 1918. Before entering the war, the U.S. had remained neutral, though it had been an important supplier to Great Britain and the other Allied powers. During the war, the U.S. mobilized over 4 million military personnel and suffered 110,000 deaths.

Nearly 400,000 sons of Montana served, the highest percentage by population of all the states. Montana's mines and farms produced vast amounts of materials, food and supplies for the Nation. Our Native-American Montanans also fought to be allowed to serve in the ranks despite not being considered citizens at the time. 1,950 Montanans lost their lives in WWI.

**'Over There'** by George M. Cohen, famed American performer and song-writer, 1917

**Verse 1**

Johnny, get your gun, get your gun, get your gun.  
Take it on the run, on the run, on the run.  
Hear them calling you and me,  
Every Son of Liberty.  
Hurry right away, no delay, go today.  
Make your Daddy glad to have had such a lad.  
Tell your sweetheart not to pine,  
To be proud her boy's in line.

**Verse 2**

Johnny, get your gun, get your gun, get your gun.  
Johnny, show the Hun you're a son-of-a-gun.  
Hoist the flag and let her fly  
Yankee Doodle do or die.  
Pack your little kit, show your grit, do your bit.  
Yankees to the ranks from the towns and the tanks,  
Make your Mother proud of you  
And the old Red-White-and-Blue.

**Chorus**

Over there, over there,  
Send the word, send the word over there  
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming  
The drums rum-tumming everywhere.  
So prepare, say a prayer,  
Send the word, send the word to beware –  
We'll be over, we're coming over,  
And we won't come back till it's over, over there!

# 'TACTICS WERE BRUTAL'



Jesse Callender plays the bagpipes at the Veterans Day ceremony in Great Falls on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTOS/ENYA SPICER

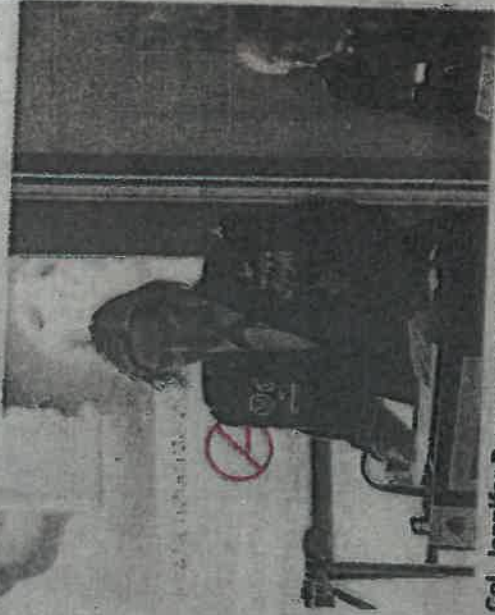
# WWI sacrifice recalled in Veterans Day ceremony

Karl Packett's Great Falls Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

World War I veterans, though most of them are now gone, received special attention during the 2018 Veterans Day ceremony in Great Falls and across country Sunday, the 100-year anniversary of the end of the war, which came on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

"Methods and tactics were brutal and fierce," Col. Jennifer K. Reeves, commander of Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, said of World War I during a speech delivered at Centene Stadium attended by about 150 people.

A bell was rung 21 times as the ceremony began. Bell ringing was encouraged at ceremonies across



Col. Jennifer Reeves, commander of Malmstrom Air Force Base, speaks during the ceremony in Great Falls on Sunday. "Methods and tactics were brutal and fierce," she said of World War I.

the nation to remember the war's end and those who fought in it, just as church bells rang out in Europe when hostilities ended.

The ceremony had been scheduled at the Montana Veterans Memorial Association's memorial at 25th Street and River Drive North. That's where the names of 7,062 veterans are etched in a wall. However, because it was snowing this year's memorial was moved inside to the lobby of Centene Stadium.

Some 70 million military members from multiple countries worldwide served in World War I and 37.5 million people died including civilians, Reeves said. At the height of the war, the United States was sending 10,000 soldiers a day to the Western Front, she said.

The country bled for what it believed in, lost its innocence and took a leadership role for the first time on the international stage, Reeves said.

The anniversary of the end of the Great War is a reminder that the country needs to continue to take care

See WWI, Page 4A

# WWI

Continued from Page 1A

of those who gave so much and sometimes their lives for the country, Reeves said.

She noted that right now the country has the largest population of young veterans since the Vietnam War.

The Central Catholic School choir sang "Over There," a patriotic 1917 song written by George M. Cohan best remembered for the line, "The Yanks are coming," and Jess Callender of the Great Falls Pipe Band performed "Battle's Over" and

"Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes.

World War I claimed the lives of 116,516 Americans with another 200,000 wounded.

"We will not leave a brother or sister behind," said Joe Parsetich of the Disabled American Veterans and coordinator of the local Veterans Treatment Court on care for veterans today.

Parsetich was appointed by the VA secretary in 2017 to serve on a national Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee.

All told, 40,500 Montanans served in World War I — 17 percent of the men (ages

18-44) eligible for the draft.

It is difficult to comprehend today how important Montana was to the war effort in World War I, author Ken Robison says in his book, "World War I Montana: The Treasure State Prepares."

"It has been said, with a lot of truth to it, that every bullet fired in World War I was encased in Butte copper, and the world was 'wired' by copper from Great Falls refineries," a book excerpt printed in the Veterans Day ceremony bulletin said. "In addition, Montana's amber waves of grain helped feed a starving world. And, Montana's cowboys, miners, foresters, farmers, nurses and other women, went to war to win, under the battle cry, Powder River, 'Let 'Er Buck!' that would resonate on the battlefields of France."

By percentage of its population, Montana sent more men to serve in World War I than any other state, Robison says.

These days, rarely do you see a relic from World War I, Bill Bronson said during the Veterans Day ceremony.

Then a member of the Marine Corps League held up a steel helmet. It was the helmet worn by Otis Thompson of North Dakota, the son of Norwegian immigrants, dur-

ing his service in World War I which included stints on the Western Front.

Otis was Bill Bronson's grandfather. The Marine Corps League placed Otis Thompson's helmet on the butt of a rifle during a boots and rifle ceremony held in honor of veterans. Bronson, who is a Great Falls city commissioner, captured it on video as he watched.

Bronson said his grandfather, Otis Thompson was "gassed" twice during the war. He died in 1954 of cancer, which was blamed at least in part on being exposed to chemicals, Bronson said.

But he never complained, Bronson said. He went on to serve in the Border Patrol. His grandfather's story was not unique, Bronson said. Most people at the ceremony, he said, probably have a relative who fought in WWI and came home scarred in some way.

"They came back," he said. "They did their duty."

He encouraged those in attendance to discover those family stories such as his grandfathers' WWI service, which carry great meaning.

"It's not just a piece of metal," Bronson said of his grandfather's helmet.

It's part of his grandfather's story.

MEAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT  
STATE OF MONTANA

JOHN MCLENNON  
MUSICIAN US ARMY  
9 AUGUST 1877

L AVERNE P  
T4 US A  
18 JANUAR

CORNELIUS C SMITH  
CPL US ARMY  
1 JANUARY 1891

LEO J PO  
PFC US A  
3 FEBRUAR

JOHN E MORAN  
CPT US ARMY  
17 SEPTEMBER 1900

DONALD JAC  
PFC US  
19 FEBRUAR

WILLIAM WYLIE GALT  
CPT US ARMY  
29 MAY 1944

HENRY SCH  
PFC US A  
23 MAY 19

TRAVIS ATKINS  
S/SGT US ARMY  
1 JUNE 2007

Medal of Honor  
ceremony,  
April 6, 2019





April 6 2019









## Montana's Fallen Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan

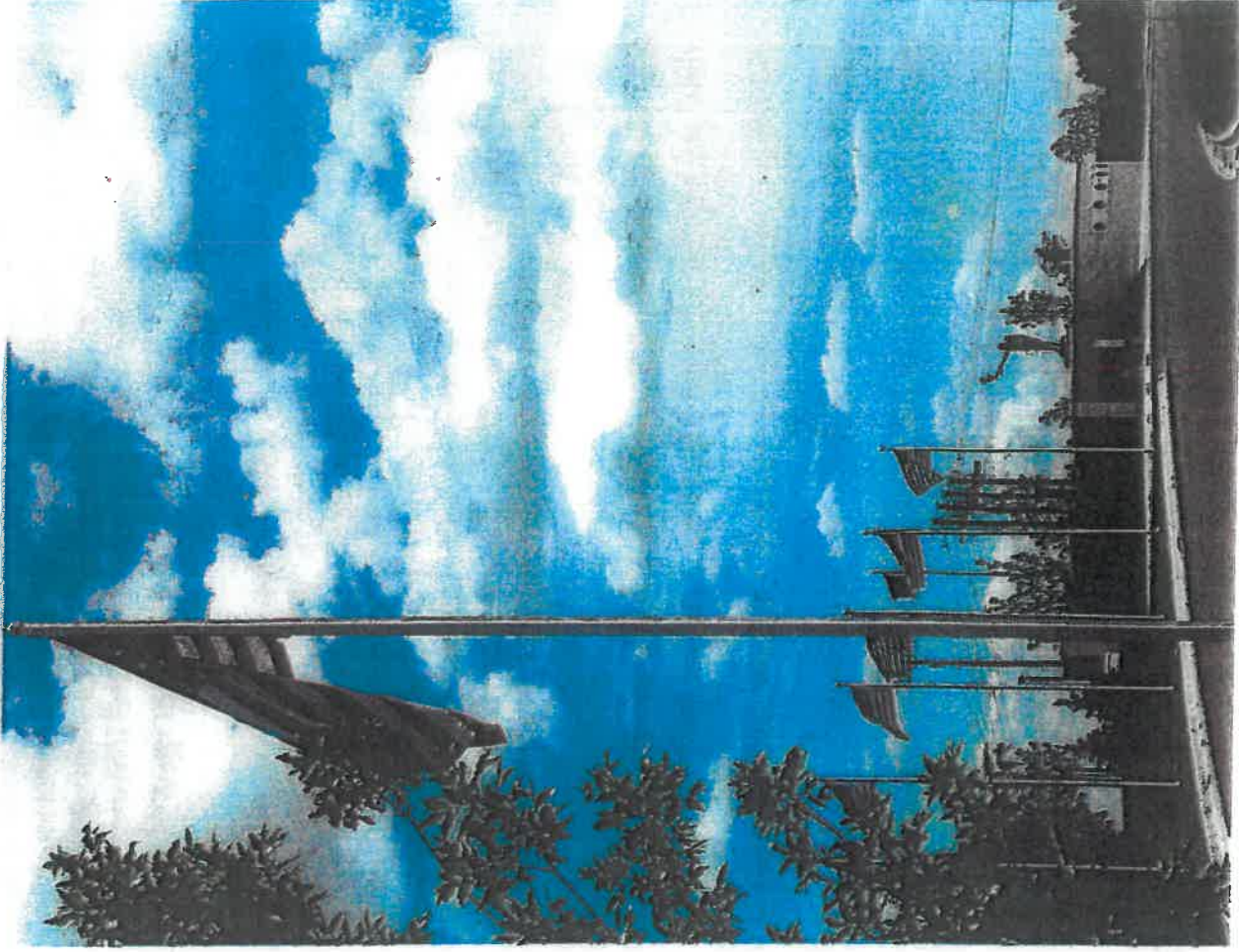
Army PFC Kristofer Stonesifer, Missoula  
Army Reserve 1st Lt. Edward Saltz, Big Fork  
Army PFC Owen D. Witt, Sand Springs  
Marine Cpl. Dean Pratt, Stevensville  
Marine Lance Cpl. Kane Funke, Kalispell  
Army Staff Sgt. Aaron Holleyman, Glasgow  
Marine Cpl. Raleigh C. Smith, Troy  
Mt. Army NG Sgt. 1st Class Robbie McNary, Lewistown  
Marine Lance Corporal Nicholas Bloem, Belgrade  
Army 1st Lt. Josh Hyland, Missoula  
Army Sgt. Travis Arndt, Great Falls  
Marine PFC Andrew Bedard, Missoula  
Army Cpt. Michael MacKinnon, Helena  
Marine Cpl. Phillip Baucus, Wolf Creek  
Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy Sandvick Monroe, Chinook  
Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Charles Komppa, Absarokee  
Army PFC Shawn Murphy, Butte  
Marine Lance Cpl. Nicklas Palmer, Great Falls  
Army Spc. Scott Dykman, Harrison  
Army Spc. James Riekena, Missoula  
Army PFC Matthew Zeimer, Glendive  
Army Staff Sgt. Shane Becker, Helena  
Army PFC Kyle Bohrmisen, Phillipsburg  
Army Spc. Michael Frank, Great Falls  
Army SSG Travis Atkins, Bozeman  
Army Spc. Donald Young, Helena  
Army Staff Sgt. Yance Gray, Ismay  
Army Cpt. Andrew Pearson, Billings  
Army Sgt. James A. McHale, Fairfield  
Marine Sgt. Trevor Johnson, Forsyth  
Army Lt. Col. Garnet R. Derby, Missoula  
Army Staff Sgt. Terry Lynch, Shepherd  
Marine Cpl. Nicholas Uzenski, Bozeman  
Army Sgt. Jeremiah Whitman, Darby  
Army PFC, Nicholas S. Cook, Hungry Horse  
Army Spc. Jonathan A. Pilgeram, Eden  
Army PFC, Michael A. Rogers, White Sulphur Springs  
Marine Cpl. Stewart S. Trejo, Whitefish  
Army PVT Timothy J. Hutton, Dillon  
Army Spc. Antonio Bunside (Many Hides), Browning  
Navy Tech Airman Andrew Scott Charpentier, Great Falls  
Army Staff Sgt. Thaddeus S. Montgomery, West Yellowstone  
Army PFC Michael A. Rogers, White Sulphur Springs  
Marine Cpl. Stewart S. Trejo, Whitefish

## Montana Ties:

Marine Lance Cpl. Nathan Wood  
Army SSG Patrick L. Lybert  
Army Sgt. Lucas T. White  
Army Sgt. Michael Sturdivant  
Army Sgt. John K. Daggett  
Army Staff Sgt. Shane Barnard



# A PLACE OF HONOR



# MEMORIAL DAY 2019

**Memorial Day 27 May 2019  
2 PM, Montana Veterans Memorial, Great Falls, MT**

**Mike Cooney** became Montana's 32nd Lieutenant Governor in January 2016 when appointed by Governor Steve Bullock. Mike is a long time public servant and elected official, having served in both houses of the Montana legislative branch and three terms as Secretary of State prior to being selected as Lieutenant Governor. He graduated from Butte High School and earned a bachelor's degree in 1979 from the University of Montana. Mike and his wife DeeAnn have three grown children Ryan, Colin and Adan.

Mike was first elected in 1976 to the Montana House of Representatives and served through 1980. He then served three terms as Secretary of State, from 1989 through 2000. Mike was a state Senator from 2003-2010, and was elected as Senate President in 2007. From 2001 to 2006, Mike served as Director of Montana Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies. Prior to his appointment to the Office of Lieutenant Governor, he served as Deputy Commissioner for the Montana Department of Labor and Industry.

**MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS**

- John McLennon**, Musician, US Army, 9 August 1877, Big Hole Battlefield, Montana
- Cornelius C. Smith**, Corporal, US Army, 1 January 1891, Montana, South Dakota Campaign
- John E. Moran**, Captain, US Army, 17 September 1900, Philippine Insurrection
- William Wylie Galt**, (posthumous) Captain, US Army, 29 May 1944, WWII, Italy
- Laverne Parrish**, (posthumous) Tech. 4, US Army, 18 January 1945, WWII, Philippines
- Leo J. Powers**, Private First Class, US Army, 3 February 1944, WWII, Italy
- Donald Jack Ruhl**, Private First Class, USMC, 19 February 1945, WWII, Iwo Jima
- Henry Schauer**, Private First Class, US Army, 27 October 1944, WWII, Italy
- Travis W. Atkins**, (posthumous) Staff Sergeant, US Army, 1 June 2007, Iraq

(please visit the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, [www.cmoahs.org](http://www.cmoahs.org))

**Welcome**..... Dwayne Nelson, Chairman,  
Montana Veterans Memorial Assoc. (MVMA)

**Master of Ceremonies**..... Richard Liebert, Lt. Col (Ret.), USAR

**Presentation of the Colors**..... Malmstrom AFB Honor Guard,  
Veterans Groups

**Invocation**..... Chaplain Daniel J. Thompson, Colonel, MT Army  
National Guard

**National Anthem**..... Sound of the Falls Women's Harmony Chorus

**Pledge of Allegiance**..... Boy Scouts of America

**Guest Speaker**..... Lt Governor Mike Cooney, State of Montana

**SSG Travis W. Atkins Medal of Honor Citation**... Col Daniel J. Thompson,  
MTARNG

**'Honor' Theme**.....from soundtrack of HBO WWII series, 'The Pacific'

**Historical Narrative of Montana's MOH heroes**..... Ken Robison,  
Captain, Retired, USN

**'Patriotic Medley'**..... Sound of the Falls Women's Harmony Chorus

**Remarks**..... Congressional delegation; Life Scout, Joshua Ritchie, BSA

**Fallen Montana Veterans of Iraq  
& Afghanistan Salute**..... GF American Legion Posts

**'Bagpipe Salute'**..... Great Falls Shrine Pipe Band Pipers

**Benediction**..... Chaplain Paul Castillo, Lt. Col. US Air Force, Malmstrom AFB

**Taps**..... Marine Corps League, Det. 688

**MONTANA VETERANS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION**

The association established and maintains this memorial to honor and recognize all veterans of all branches of military service to the United States of America, in peace and in war. A Veteran is defined as any man or woman of any age who has served in any branch of the military of the United States of America in any capacity, and to honor men and women living and deceased equally. Memorial tiles are available for \$225. Contact the MVMA with your request at:

Montana Veterans Memorial Association • PO Box 3524 • Great Falls, MT 59403-3524  
Phone (406) 454-9070 • [www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org)  
Non-Profit Tax ID #0530543

Travis W. Atkins was born on Dec. 9, 1975, in Great Falls, Montana. He moved with his parents, Jack and Elaine, to Bozeman, Montana, in 1981. Growing up, Atkins was an avid outdoorsman. He loved to hunt, fish, snowmobile and camp.



Prior to enlisting, Atkins worked for concrete and painting contractors, and as a small-engine mechanic, but his athletic nature and desire to serve ultimately led him to the U.S. Army.

Atkins enlisted on Nov. 9, 2000, and attended basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was assigned to Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and deployed with the 101st to Kuwait in early March 2003. Atkins participated in the invasion of Iraq later that month as an infantry fire team leader. Atkins was honorably discharged from the Army in December 2003.

Back home, Atkins attended the University of Montana in Missoula and worked as a painting and concrete contractor. Two years later, Atkins once again answered the call to serve. He reenlisted in the U.S. Army in December 2005 and was reassigned to Delta Company in the same battalion and deployed to Iraq again in August 2006. He was killed in action on June 1, 2007. **On 27 March 2019, President Donald J. Trump awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor to SSG Atkin's son Trevor Oliver and family at the White House.**

Atkins' Army awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal with four Bronze Service Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Valorous Unit Award with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded in the name of Congress the Medal of Honor to

**STAFF SERGEANT TRAVIS W. ATKINS, UNITED STATES ARMY**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Staff Sergeant Atkins distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty on 1 June, 2007, while serving in the position of Squad Leader with Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. While manning a static observation post in the town of Abu Samak, Iraq, Staff Sergeant Atkins was notified that four suspicious individuals, walking in two pairs, were crossing an intersection not far from his position. Staff Sergeant Atkins immediately moved his squad to interdict the individuals. One of the individuals began behaving erratically, prompting Staff Sergeant Atkins to disembark from his patrol vehicle and approach to conduct a search. Both individuals responded belligerently toward Staff Sergeant Atkins, who then engaged the individual he had intended to search in hand-to-hand combat. Staff Sergeant Atkins tried to wrestle the insurgent's arms behind his back. When he noticed the insurgent was reaching for something under his clothes, Staff Sergeant Atkins immediately wrapped him in a bear hug and threw him to the ground, away from his fellow soldiers. Staff Sergeant Atkins maintained his hold on the insurgent, placing his body on top of him, further sheltering his patrol. With Staff Sergeant Atkins on top of him, the insurgent detonated a bomb strapped to his body, killing Staff Sergeant Atkins. Staff Sergeant Atkins acted with complete disregard for his own safety. In this critical and selfless act of valor, Staff Sergeant Atkins saved the lives of the three soldiers who were with him and gallantly gave his life for his country. Staff Sergeant Atkins's undaunted courage, warrior spirit, and steadfast devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and the United States Army.

# Despite a little rain, ceremony honors the fallen

**Enya Spicer**  
Great Falls Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

As the rain continued to fall from a gray-painted sky, more than 50 people flooded into Centene Stadium for the 2019 Veterans Memorial Park Memorial Day ceremony.

Community members, service member and veterans gathered in the stadium to honor those who have fell in service to the country. Overflow took over almost every inch of the space.

"We must not ever forget the true reason we reason we commemorate this day every year," Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney said. "To honor the memory of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, coast guardsmen, women and civilians who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom."

The ceremony was filled with harmonies from the Sound of the Falls Women's Harmony Chorus. The Medal of Honor citation of Staff Sergeant Travis W. Atkins of the United States Army was read for those in the audience. Historical narratives of Montana's Medal of Honor recipients were read by retired U.S. Navy Captain Ken Robison. And the "dings" of the bell rang through the stadium's silence for Montana's Fallen Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

After the ceremony's closing, those who wanted were welcomed to continue their Memorial Day at the Veterans Memorial.

"I have one request," Montana U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte said during his speech. "Could you please pray for our country?"

Memorial Day  
celebration  
2019



Heads bowed, eyes closed and hearts open during the benediction of the ceremony. TRIBUNE PHOTO/ENYA SPICER

The Great Falls

Flower Showers  
would like to thank you  
for the yearly donation

of \$250.00  
of the Red, White & Blue Patriotic

the plant, in the Mt. Veterans Memorial  
Garden at the

It's always a challenge to out  
guess mother nature on the weather,  
but we were lucky and had a  
planting day on Friday in between  
rain storms. It's too bad

the ceremony was moved inside,  
it's always more impressive on  
site. Thank you all for you

...but we hope you know  
we appreciate everything  
you've done.

Maha Fundis

Mt. Veterans Memorial

Garden Chairman

Great Falls Flower Showers

4



CHOTEAU

# ACCANTIA

**LIFESTYLE ... PAGE 3**

*Mathew Walter is new Extension agent*

**SPORTS ... PAGE 7**

*Spring sports off to slow start*

VOL. 126 • No. 6

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019

75 CENTS

## Lest we forget...

Give the gift of eternal honor with a Granite Tile, Bench or Tree...

## Honor a Veteran

The Montana Veterans Memorial is the largest state recognized memorial, dedicated to honor and recognize all veterans of all branches of military service to the United States of America, in peace and in war, with no geographical requirements.

Veteran is defined as any man or woman of any age who has served in any branch of the military of the United States of America in any capacity.

To honor men and women living and deceased equally.



To order your Memorial contact the  
**MONTANA VETERANS MEMORIAL**  
Michael Winters • (406) 454-9070

# MONTANA VETERANS' MEMORIAL

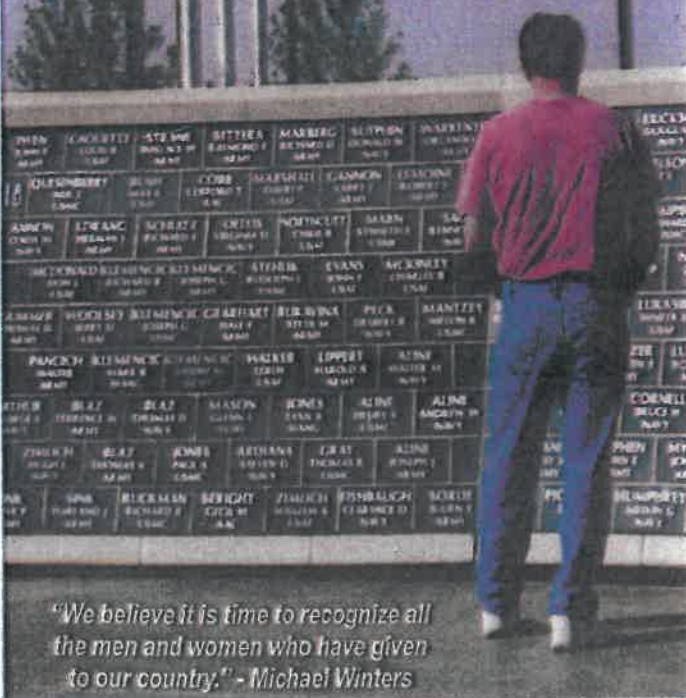
By: Michael Winters

In 1999 Michael Winters of Great Falls, Montana, an US Air Force and Marine Corp Reserve Veteran, formed a committee of veterans to build a Veterans Memorial to honor all Veterans. The team embraced the challenge building the Montana Veterans Memorial on a historical site overlooking the Missouri River, an area where Lewis and Clark one explored and where Lt. John J. Pershing camped. The memorial contains over 7,000 black granite tiles with the Veterans name and service branch, 200 Blackfeet warrior names and three Confederate Veterans' names.

The project began with \$500 and to date have raised over 1.6 million dollars. Through legislative Acton the Montana Veterans' Memorial has been designated and recognized as a Montana State Memorial. Through our accomplishments and success, we have been the catalyst for other communities to build and honor veterans.

The nation which  
forgets its defenders  
will itself  
be forgotten."  
- Calvin Coolidge

Visit  
Montana Veterans Memorial  
at  
25th Street North & River Drive  
[montanaveteransmemorial.com](http://montanaveteransmemorial.com)



"We believe it is time to recognize all the men and women who have given to our country." - Michael Winters

National Editor—Retirees  
Eva Finley  
PO Box 500  
Grafton, TX 76449-0500

**IN THE MAILBOX**  
UNITED POSTMASTERS AND MANAGERS OF AMERICA RETIRED

MARCH-APRIL 2019

VOLUME 89

Eva Finley, National Editor



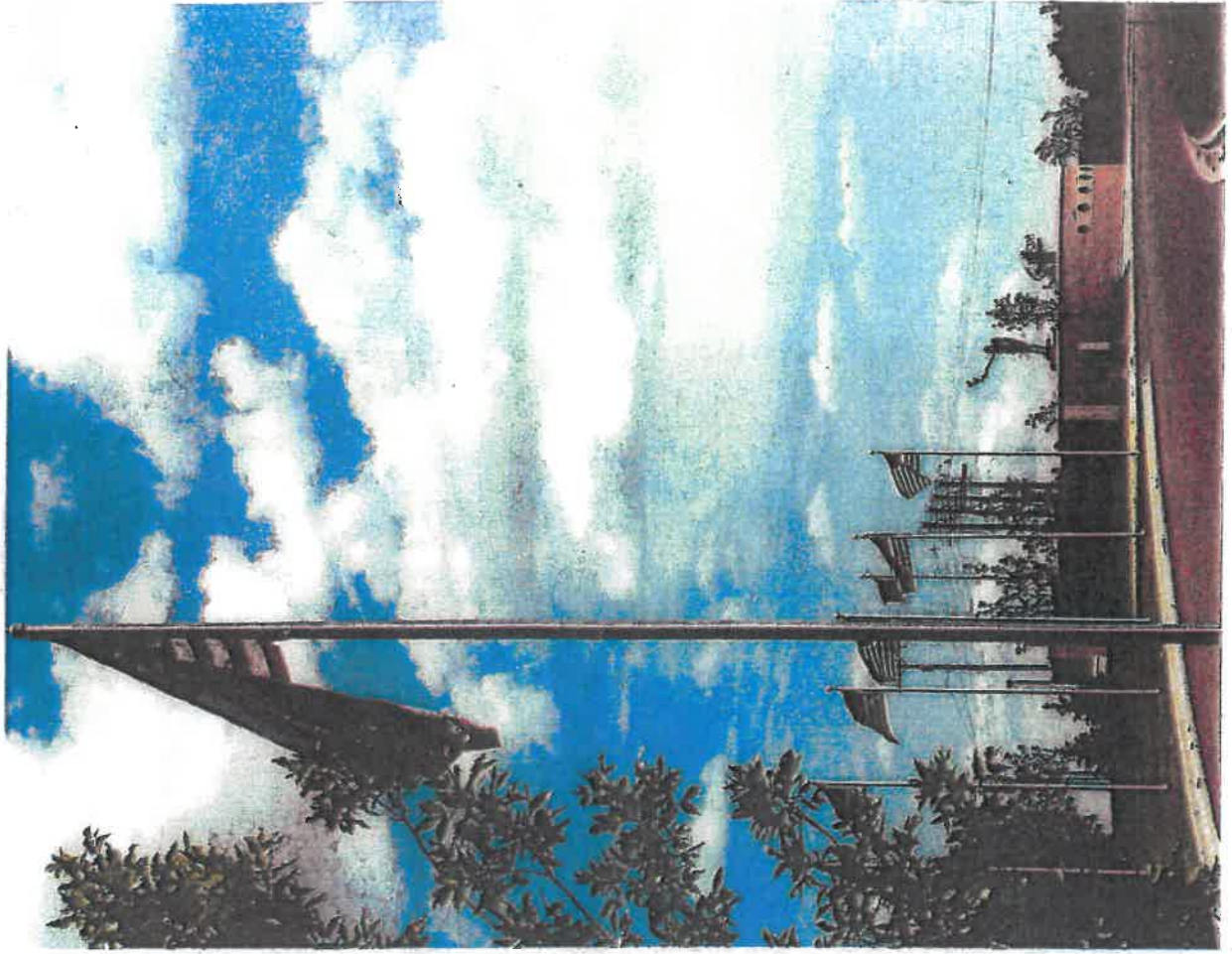


Bill Hunter performs "taps" to bring the 14th annual Veterans Day Ceremony to a close. PHOTOS BY SKYLAR RISPENS/GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

# Veterans Day ceremony honors those who served



# A PLACE OF HONOR



■ The American Legion was founded in March 1919 in Paris, France, by U.S. World War I military personnel stationed there who were dedicated to four pillars of service and advocacy: veterans, military personnel, youth and patriotic values.

■ The American Legion consists of 55 "departments" in each of the 50 states as well as the District of Columbia, France, Mexico, the Philippines and Puerto Rico. There are approximately 13,000 local posts worldwide.

■ Current national membership is about 2 million. Combined with the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion, membership in what is known as the American Legion Family exceeds 3 million.

■ American Legion Membership is open to military personnel and veterans who have served their nation on active duty during wartime. Eligibility has been open to all who have served on active duty since Aug. 2, 1990, the beginning of continuous U.S. armed conflict in the Middle East and other locations around the planet.

■ The Legion has been instrumental in the creation of a number of major institutions of American society, including formation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, creation of U.S. Flag Code, passage of the GI Bill and more.

The LEGION Act, signed into law July 30, 2019, expands eligibility in The American Legion to include veterans who served in U.S. military conflicts previously unrecognized by Congress as war eras and who have served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and were honorably discharged or still serving honorably.



# VETERANS DAY NOV. 11, 2019



**MONTANA VETERANS MEMORIAL**  
**Veterans Day Ceremony**  
**11:00 a.m. - Sunday - November 11, 2019**  
**Great Falls, Montana**



**DAVID A. DRIVER** - National Executive Committeeman of the American Legion - was born in Omaha, Nebraska and raised in the Air Force. He has lived in Naples, Italy, Scott AFB, IL, Biloxi, MS, Tacoma, WA, Omaha, NE, Albuquerque, NM, Goose Bay Labrador, Canada, Clovis, NM and St. Petersburg, FL. David enlisted in the Air Force in August 1964 and after basic training and Air Police Tech School at Lackland AFB, TX, he was assigned to Ellsworth AFB, SD. After a winter guarding B-52s and KC-135s David cross-trained into the Administrative field and went to work in the nice and warm 821st Combat Defense Squadron Orderly Room. After a year's tour with the 95th Strat-Wg, Goose Bay Labrador, Canada, David was discharged in May 1968 and married Shirley Nordstrom in June 1968. David was out of the service for 3 years, working for the FBI in Washington DC, the Alexandria Police Dept., Alexandria, VA and a year of college back in his hometown of Omaha where he enlisted in the Air Force again in May 1971. His Air Force career had sent David and Shirley to Ent AFB, Colorado Springs, CO, Wheeler AFB, HI, Minot AFB, ND, where their daughter Shirley Marie was born and then to Malmstrom AFB, MT. After 3 years, it was off to Andersen AFB, Guam and in August 1985, it was back to Malmstrom AFB. David has had a career of 21 years in the Air Force retiring as a Legal Services Superintendent in Great Falls in 1988. After the Air Force, David worked four years for Jardine, Stephenson, Blewett and Weaver law firm as a paralegal/investigator. He then started his volunteer work, working for the American Red Cross and then at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center. David is a third generation Legionnaire following in the footsteps of his grandfather and father. David's 30 year career in The American Legion includes positions as Post Adjutant and Post Commander of Loy J. Molumby Post 3 in Great Falls. He has served as District 8 Adjutant and Commander, Department North Central Zone Commander, Commander of the Department of Montana, Alternate National Executive Committeeman and National Executive Committeeman. He has had appointments at National level on the National Foreign Relations Council, National Americanism Commission, and currently on the National Security Commission. David is a member of the Sons of The American Legion, Squadron 3, in Great Falls, and has served as Squadron Commander, Squadron Adjutant and two years as the Detachment Commander for Montana. David is also a Life Member of the DAV, a member of The Royal Canadian Legion and a life member of the Air Force Sergeants Association.



- Welcome..... Dwayne Nelson, Chair,  
Montana Veterans Memorial Association
- Master of Ceremonies..... Richard Liebert, Lt. Col (Ret. Army),  
Montana Veterans Memorial Association
- Presentation of the Colors ..... Malmstrom AFB Honor Guard,  
Veterans Groups
- Invocation..... Chaplain Heather Bodwell, Lt. Col. USAF  
Malmstrom Air Force Base
- National Anthem ..... Great Falls Symphonic Choir
- Pledge of Allegiance .. Junior ROTC Cadets, USAF, Great Falls High  
Civil Air Patrol Cadets
- Guest Speakers..... David A. Driver,  
National Executive Committeeman, American Legion
- Military Music..... Jesse Callender, Great Falls Shrine Pipe Band
- Remarks..... Representatives, U. S. Senate and Congress,  
American Legion Posts 3, 341
- "America the Beautiful" ..... Great Falls Symphonic Choir
- Benediction... Rev. Marcia Lauzon, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
- Taps..... Marine Corps League, Det 688

**MONTANA VETERANS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION** established and maintains this memorial to honor and recognize all veterans. A Veteran is defined as any man or woman of any age who has served in any branch of the military of the United States of America in any capacity, and to honor men and women living and deceased equally. Memorial tiles are available at \$225. Contact the MVMA with your request at:

Montana Veterans Memorial Committee, Inc., PO Box 3524,  
Great Falls, Montana 59403-3524 - (406) 454-9070,  
[www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org) - Non-Profit Tax ID #0530543



# 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

## MONTANA VETERANS MEMORIAL, 11AM, MONDAY, 11 NOV 2019

25<sup>th</sup> St. and River Drive North, Great Falls  
(overlooking Black Eagle Dam)

This ceremony is dedicated to honor all our Veterans and especially the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **THE AMERICAN LEGION** ([legion.org](http://legion.org)) and its outstanding service to our Veterans, our military, our youth and patriotic values. The Legion was founded in March 1919 following the end of World War I on Armistice Day 11 Nov 1918 and formed to advocate for the needs of the thousands of veterans – the wounded, the families, the Fallen and more benefits for those who sacrificed for our Nation.

This special ceremony will include guest speakers, USAF Honor Guard, the cadets of USAF JROTC and Civil Air Patrol, the Great Falls Symphonic Choir, Great Falls Pipe Band, Marine Corps League and American Legion Posts 3 and 341 . **If inclement weather, ceremony will be at the Centene Stadium lobby.**

**MONTANA VETERANS  
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION  
(MVMA)**

PO BOX 3524  
Great Falls, MT 59405 406-454-9070  
[www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org)

Now  
on

(for further information contact the MVMA number or Lt. Col  
(Ret, USA) Rich Liebert, 406-736-5791





**Veterans Day Ceremony, 11 November 2019**

11AM, Montana Veterans Memorial, Great Falls, MT, Monday

***"100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Legion, 1919-2019 Legion.org***

Welcome.....Dwayne Nelson, Chair, MT Veterans Memorial Association  
Master of Ceremonies.....Richard D. Liebert, Lt. Col. (Ret, Army), MVMA  
Presentation of the Colors.....Malmstrom AFB Honor Guard, Veterans Groups  
Invocation.....Chaplain Heather Bodwell , Lt. Col, USAF, MAFB  
***National Anthem***.....Great Falls Symphonic Choir  
**Pledge of Allegiance**...JROTC Cadets, USAF, Great Falls High; Civil Air Patrol Cadets  
Guest Speaker.....David A. Driver, National Executive Committeeman, American Legion  
Military Music.....Jesse Callender, Great Falls Shrine Pipe Band  
Remarks.....representatives, U.S. Senate and Congress; American Legion Posts 3, 341  
***'America the Beautiful'***.....Great Falls Symphonic Choir  
Benediction.....Rev. Marcia Lauzon, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation  
Taps.....Marine Corps League, Det. 688

**The Montana Veterans Memorial Association** established and maintains this memorial to honor and recognize all veterans. A Veteran is defined as any man or woman of any age who has served in any branch of the military of the United States of America in any capacity, and to honor men and women living and deceased equally. Memorial tiles are available for \$225 and contact the MVMA with your request at:

Montana Veterans Memorial Association, PO Box 3524, Great Falls, Montana 59403-3524 (406)454-9070, [www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org), Non-Profit Tax ID #0530543

■ The American Legion was founded in March 1919 in Paris, France, by U.S. World War I military personnel stationed there who were dedicated to four pillars of service and advocacy: veterans, military personnel, youth and patriotic values and Legion membership open to veterans who have served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and were honorably discharged or still serving honorably.

# Great Falls celebrates a century of the American Legion

Skyler Ripstein Great Falls Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The 14th annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Montana Veterans Memorial was held indoors at the neighboring Centene Stadium lobby due to cold temperatures.

Despite the change of venue and weather, dozens of community members attended the event to show support and remember those who have courageously served the United States of America.

"We had great attendance despite the weather," said Richard Liebert with the Montana Veterans Memorial Association, who served in the U.S. Army. "People braved the weather and hung out and a lot of great participation."

Attendees of all ages packed into the lobby and were treated to complimentary hot beverages and snacks from Starbucks before the ceremony began.

Members of Malmstrom Air Force Base presented the colors for the ceremony and Chaplain Heather Bodwell provided the invocation before the Great Falls Symphonic Choir sang the National Anthem.

Members of the Junior ROTC Cadets and the Great Falls High Civil Air Patrol Cadets lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

"There's a lot to look forward to, I'm just excited [to serve]," said Chris Long, a freshman at Great Falls High School and a member of the Junior ROTC. "I've got a long road ahead of me that's for sure."

The guest speaker for the ceremony was David Driver, the national executive committeeman of the American Legion. He outlined the variety of ways that the American



David Driver, national executive committeeman for the American Legion, provides Veterans Day Ceremony attendees an overview of the variety of ways the organization supports veterans since its inception a century ago.

Legion has served veterans since its inception a century ago. He spoke passionately about the work the American Legion has done to provide support and be an advocate for those experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder following their service.

"The American Legion portfolio has included acceptance of all effective treatments for PTSD and traumatic brain injury and not prescribed drugs alone," said Driver.

"Thousands of career fairs, business workshops and education forums to give veterans opportunities to succeed after service," said Driver, continuing to explain the depths of the American Legions service to

veterans.

Following Driver's presentation, Jess Callender of the Great Falls Shrine Pipe Band performed military music on bagpipes on the lobby stairs. U.S. Sen. Steve Daines and Sen. Jon Tester and Congressman Greg Gianforte were represented by local liaison who read remarks on their behalf.

Attorney General Tim Fox spoke about his passion for supporting Montana's veteran and what it means to remember those who have served.

"This community has meant so much to

See VETERANS, Page 7A

KY GREATFALLSTRIBUNE.COM | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019 | 7A

## Veterans

Continued from Page 1A

the veterans here and they've done so great, they've been very organized and very active," said Fox. "I love this community. They support not only their veterans but their first responders in a great way."

Fox spoke highly about the ways the community of Great Falls supports its vet-

erans, including the Veterans Treatment Court and District Judge Greg Pinski. Great Falls is one of six places in Montana with veterans treatment courts. The other five are in Missoula, Bozeman, Billings, Polson and Butte.

To close the ceremony, the Great Falls Symphonic Choir returned to the stage to sing "America the Beautiful," and the benediction was provided by Rev. Marcia Lauzon with the Episco-

pal Church of the Incarnation.

Bill Hunter of Great Falls proudly performed taps in his red Marine Corps League attire. He has been with the Marine Corps League for almost 20 years.

"It's an honor for all the veterans to all the veterans," said Hunter of the Veterans Day ceremony. "No matter your experience, you have just as much honor as others who have also served."



# Ceremony planned at Montana Veterans Memorial

Tribune Staff Great Falls Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Veterans Day ceremony will be conducted at 11 a.m. Monday at the Montana Veterans Memorial at 1025 25th St. N. in Great Falls.

The special ceremony will include guest speakers, U.S. Air Force Honor Guard, the Junior Air Force ROTC cadets of Great Falls High School, a local choral group, the Great Falls Pipe Band and a special salute to honor the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion with Post 3 of Great Falls and Post 341 of Malmstrom Air Force Base.

In the case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be at the Centene Stadium lobby.

It will be the 14th annual veterans ceremony at the memorial, where veterans of all branches of military service are honored and recognized.



A Marine Corps League member plays taps during the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Montana Veterans Memorial, 1025 25th St. N. This year's ceremony begins at 11 a.m. Monday. JULIA MOSS/GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

**REMEMBER  
OUR GREAT VETERANS  
THIS CHRISTMAS**

**Surprise them  
with a special gift!**

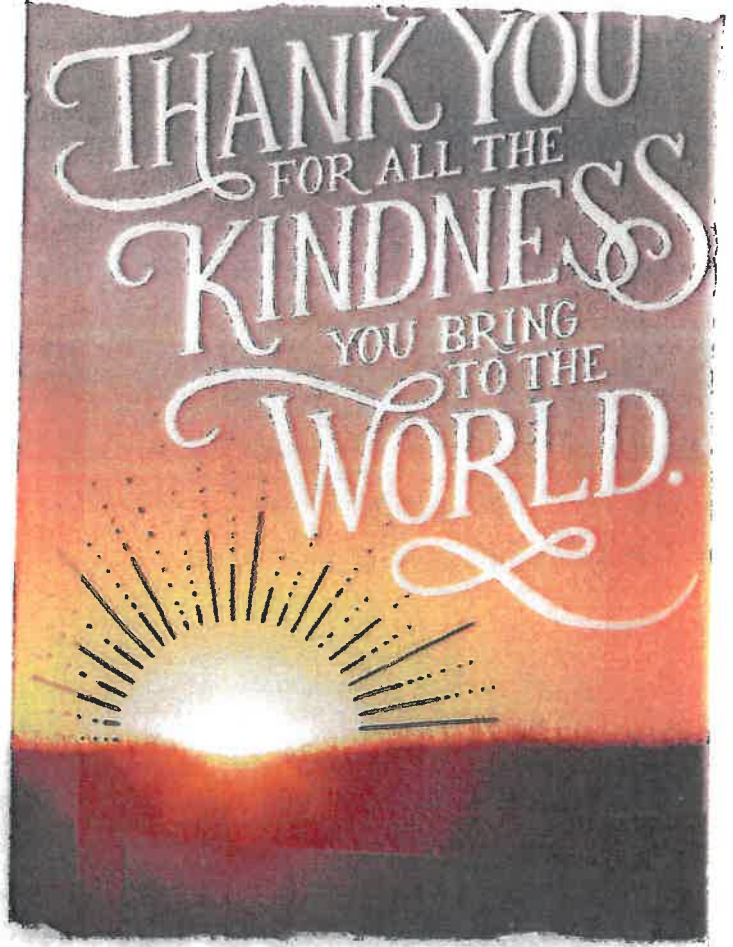
**MONTANA  
VETERANS MEMORIAL**

406-454-9070 • Great Falls  
MontanaVeteransMemorial.org



**VETERANS  
DAY**

*Honoring all who served*



Per Young  
301-26 to 102  
Great Fall

Nov 20-2019

Larry  
McNeal  
Dad

Thank You so much for  
giving my father such a  
great honor. This was the  
greatest way to help celebrate  
his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. This  
meets so much to him.

May you have a  
Very Blessed Thanksgiving  
&  
A Merry Christmas

X Thank You!  
Young



**HANDS OF THE WORKMAN**

Reid Gardiner (3)

**DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON MONROE**

15th Grand Master



Most Worshipful Brother George Monroe was born on September 7, 1837, at Stafford, Virginia, the son of Thomas Cowper and Mary J. (Graves) Monroe, of Virginia. When he was about one year old his parents moved to central Alabama, where his father purchased a cotton plantation. Here the future physician and soldier received his early education in the schools of Selma. In 1856 he began the study of medicine near Montgomery, Ala. The next year he entered the medical department of Louisiana University, at New Orleans, and graduated on March 20, 1859. He entered medical practice near Selma and continued until the start of the Civil War in 1861 when he enlisted in the Confederate army as first lieutenant in Company A, Twenty-eighth Alabama Volunteers, and in 1862 he was made assistant surgeon with the rank of captain. He was in constant, active service, and most of the time with that regiment, for four years and five months, in fact, until the last army of the Confederacy had surrendered at Greensboro, NC.

He saw service at Shiloh, Corinth, and Perryville, Ky., and into Tennessee and was at Murfreesboro. In 1863 he saw the horrors of the two days' fight at Chickamauga. His duties were arduous and relentless, keeping him occupied day and night. He continued his duties at Missionary Ridge, where the Confederates were defeated and fell back to Dalton, GA; and at Resaca, in May, 1864, where he remained on the battlefield and attended the wounded. While doing this he was taken prisoner and held until October. During his captivity he was at Chattanooga, and served on duty as a Surgeon among the Federal soldiers. After his exchange in October he joined Hood's army having been promoted to surgeon with the rank of major. He was present at the battles of Franklin and Nashville, which were among the most desperate of not only his service but of the battles of the world.

In February, 1865, he joined the army of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, with which he took part in the battles of Columbia, S. C., and Bentonville, N. C., and was present at its surrender to Gen. Sherman, in April, 1865. After the end of the war he returned to Selma, where he resumed the practice of medicine and engaged in cotton raising. In September, 1871, Dr. Monroe determined to seek a new home in the far west and, as a reinforcement to his medical knowledge, he attended a special course of lectures at Bellevue Hospital, NY, Medical College.

Selecting Montana as his new home, he arrived at Helena June 13, 1872, and two months later was in practice in Bozeman. His extensive knowledge, worth and attainments were soon recognized. He was made superintendent of public instruction for Gallatin county in 1876 and held office six years. In 1886 he was elected mayor of Bozeman and in 1886 was appointed by President Cleveland register of the United States land office in that city. In 1890 he moved to Butte, and was almost simultaneously appointed assistant on the medical staff of St. James Hospital, where he rendered valuable service until he retired in 1896. In 1893 he was county physician of Silver Bow county. He was the first vice-president and second president of the State Medical Association. Dr. Monroe was united in marriage May 25, 1876, to Miss Carrie Evans, of Helena, a native of Tennessee.

MW Brother Monroe was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Alabama. On arriving in Bozeman, in 1872 Brother Monroe helped organize and became a Charter Member of Bozeman Lodge No. 18, serving as Worshipful Master in 1875, 1878, 1886, 1888 and 1889. He served as Secretary of Bozeman No. 18 in 1876 and 1877 and Treasurer in 1872 and in 1885. He affiliated with Mount Moriah Lodge No. 24 and Butte. Brother Monroe was elected Grand Master in 1880. Most Worshipful Brother Monroe died on December 22, 1912 at the age of 75.

Judge Robert Walter

Montana Veterans Memorial  
Case.

We want to thank you  
all so much for the \$250.00  
donation to help pay for the  
flower bed at the mem.

Our garden club is a not for  
profit org. and we couldn't  
afford to do this without  
your help.

With sincere appreciation  
for your kindness.



The Next Falls  
Flower Showers  
Garden Club.

Mavis Stundis  
G.F.T.G. Garden  
Chairman

5/25/20

Ken Robison loves books, and he loves history and historic preservation. He is a chronicler of neglected Western history and active in historical and preservation groups in Fort Benton, Sun River and Great Falls. He was born and educated in Montana, and after graduating from Great Falls High School and the University of Montana, Captain Ken Robison served thirty years in Naval Intelligence through many contingency operations. During Operation Homecoming, Captain Robison escorted and debriefed senior Navy Vietnam POW James Bond Stockdale. Ken is author or co-author of twelve books including *Montanans in the Great War: Open Warfare Over There*, the second and final of his books on Montanans in World War I.



During WWII the name Gold Star came from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner, called a Service Flag, in the window of their homes. This banner told others that a family member was serving in the Armed Forces. the Service Flag had a star for each family member in the United States Armed Forces. Living servicemen were represented by a Blue Star, which stands for hope and pride. When service members lost their lives, the blue star was replaced with a gold one, representing the sacrifice. A silver star stood for a service member wounded overseas.

Captain Robert B. Quiesser, an Ohio National Guard veteran of the Mexican Border, (1916) is credited with designing the original flag. In 1917 the Congressional Record stated: "The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother - their children.

A Blue Star Marker was created in 1947 to honor WWII veterans, but now all men and women who had served, are serving or will serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. Our Blue Star Memorial Marker, adorned by two benches installed by Rainbow Garden Club and Flower Growers Club, lies east of the memorial here.

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc was incorporated in 1929, obtaining a federal charter from the U.S. Congress. It began with 25 mothers living in the Washington DC area. On June 23, 1936, a joint Congressional resolution designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mothers' Day, a holiday that has been observed each year by a presidential proclamation.

These Blue and Gold Star traditions are still honored today for our Nation's warriors.

## Memorial Day 25 May 2020 2 PM, Montana Veterans Memorial, Great Falls, MT

(As per CCHD guidance, the ceremony is limited to participants only and will be broadcast live to a 'virtual audience' thru Facebook, local radio and recorded to the memorial's website for viewing immediately

- Welcome..... Dwayne Neilson, Chairman,  
Montana Veterans Memorial Assoc. (MVMA)
- Master of Ceremonies.....Richard Liebert, Lt. Col (Ret.), USAR
- Presentation of the Colors.....Malmstrom AFB Honor Guard
- Invocation..... Chaplain Heather Bodwell, Lt. Col, USAF
- National Anthem.....Sarah Keller, Great Falls Symphony
- Pledge of Allegiance.....Scout Troop 1110 trio
- Keynote Speaker..... Ken Robison, Captain, Retired, U.S. Navy
- 'Bagpipe Salute'..... Jesse Callender
- Gold Star Marker dedication.....Kathy Austin, MT Blue & Gold Star  
Families Memorial Markers Chairwoman
- Boots, Rifle and Helmet Remembrance..... Marine Corps League, Det. 688
- Taps.....Hailey Finch, CMR High School

The Montana Veterans Memorial Association established and maintains this memorial to honor and recognize all veterans. A Veteran is defined as any man or woman of any age who has served in any branch of the military of the United States of America in any capacity, and to honor men and women living and deceased equally. Memorial tiles are available for \$250 and contact the MVMA with your request at:

Montana Veterans Memorial Association • PO Box 3524 • Great Falls, MT 59403-3524  
Phone (406) 454-9070 • [www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org)  
Non-Profit Tax ID #0530543



## Montana's Fallen Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan

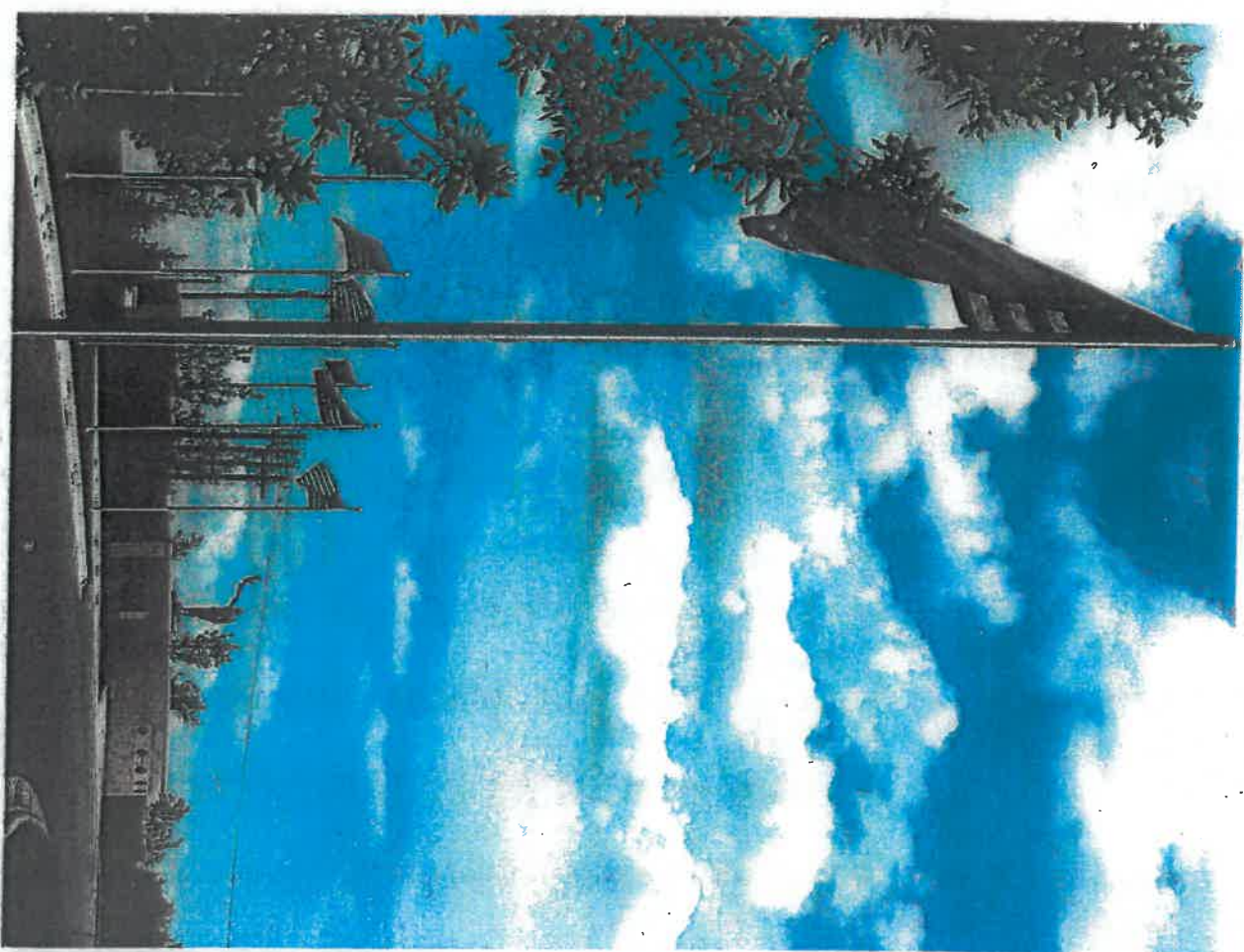
- Army PFC Kristofer Stonesifer, Missoula
- Army Reserve 1st Lt. Edward Saltz, Big Fork
- Army PFC Owen D. Witt, Sand Springs
- Marine Cpl. Dean Pratt, Stevensville
- Marine Lance Cpl. Kane Funke, KallsPELL
- Army Staff Sgt. Aaron Holleyman, Glasgow
- Marine Cpl. Raleigh C. Smith, Troy
- Mt. Army NG Sgt. 1st Class Robbie McNary, Lewistown
- Marine Lance Corporal Nicholas Bloem, Belgrade
- Army 1st Lt. Josh Hyland, Missoula
- Army Sgt. Travis Arridt, Great Falls
- Marine PFC Andrew Bedard, Missoula
- Army Cpl. Michael MacKinnon, Helena
- Marine Cpl. Phillip Baucus, Wolf Creek
- Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy Sandvick Monroe, Chinook
- Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Charles Komppa, Absarokee
- Army PFC Shawn Murphy, Butte
- Marine Lance Cpl. Nicklas Palmer, Great Falls
- Army Spc. Scott Dykman, Harrison
- Army Spc. James Riekana, Missoula
- Army PFC Matthew Zeimer, Glendive
- Army Staff Sgt. Shane Becker, Helena
- Army PFC Kyle Bohrsen, Phillipsburg
- Army Spc. Michael Frank, Great Falls
- Army SSG Travis Atkins, Bozeman
- Army Spc. Donald Young, Helena
- Army Staff Sgt. Yance Gray, Ismay
- Army Cpt. Andrew Pearson, Billings
- Army Sgt. James A. McHale, Fairfield
- Marine Sgt. Trevor Johnson, Forsyth
- Army Lt. Col. Garnet R. Derby, Missoula
- Army Staff Sgt. Terry Lynch, Shepherd
- Marine Cpl. Nicholas Uzenski, Bozeman
- Army Sgt. Jeremiah Whitman, Darty
- Army PFC. Nicholas S. Cook, Hungry Horse
- Army Spc. Jonathan A. Pilgeram, Eden
- Army PFC. Michael A. Rogers, White Sulphur Springs
- Marine Cpl. Stewart S. Trejo, Whitefish
- Army PFC Daren A. Smith, Helena
- Army PVT Timothy J. Hutton, Dillon
- Army Spc. Antonio Bunside (Mary Hides), Browning
- Navy Tech Airman Andrew Scott Charpentier, Great Falls
- Army Staff Sgt Thaddaus S. Montgomery, West Yellowstone
- Army PFC Michael A. Rogers, White Sulphur Springs
- Marine Cpl. Stewart S. Trejo, Whitefish

### Montana Ties:

- Marine Lance Cpl. Nathan Wood
- Army SSG Patrick L. Lybert
- Army Sgt. Lucas T. White
- Army Sgt. Michael Sturdivant
- Army Sgt. John K. Daggett
- Army Staff Sgt. Shane Barnard



## A PLACE OF HONOR



## MEMORIAL DAY 2020



# 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY 'VIRTUAL' CEREMONY

**FACEBOOK LIVE BROADCAST AND RECORDED  
TO [WWW.MONTANAVETERANSMEMORIAL.ORG](http://WWW.MONTANAVETERANSMEMORIAL.ORG) AND  
LIVE AT 89.9FM KGPR PUBLIC RADIO**

**Due to public health directives (Dept. of Defense, Montana COVID 19 Task Force and local protocols) the ceremony will be conducted WITHOUT THE TRADITIONAL AUDIENCE to protect public health at the Montana Veterans Memorial.**

**The ceremony will Honor our Fallen warriors and expected to be about 30 min. The full ceremony program with all participants can be found and downloaded at [www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org). The website also has the 'Tile Search' feature to help locate the existing and new tiles installed. The memorial is open to the public 24/7 and the public is asked to please practice social distancing.**

**25<sup>th</sup> St. and River Drive North, Great Falls  
(overlooking Black Eagle Dam)**

Montana veterans  
memorial association  
(MVMA)

PO BOX 3524  
Great Falls, MT 59405 406-454-  
9070  
[www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org)

Now  
on

(for further information contact the MVMA number or Lt. Col  
(Ret, USA) Rich Liebert, 406-736-5791





# Memorial Day ceremony to be streamed

From Staff Reports *Great Falls Tribune*  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Memorial Day ceremony is planned at 2 p.m. Monday at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls, but it's limited to participants only.

Instead of attending, residents are asked to watch a livestream of the event on the Montana Veterans Memorial Facebook page. The virtual Memorial Day ceremony is being conducted to meet health protocols in place due to COVID-19.

Residents can also listen to the event on public radio station KGPR 89.9 FM.

A video will be posted later at [www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org).

Retired Navy Capt. Ken Robison will give the keynote speech. He'll discuss previous crises and how the nation moved forward.

The Malmstrom Air Force Base Honor Guard will provide the colors.

Lt. Col. Heather Bodwell, Air Force chaplain, will do the invocation.

Sarah Keller of the Great Falls Symphony will sing the "Star-Spangled Banner" and three members of the Boy Scouts of America Troop 1110 will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The traditional bagpipe salute will be performed by bagpiper Jesse Callendar of Great Falls.

Kathy Austin, chairwoman of the Montana Gold and Blue Star Families Memorial Markers, will provide a Gold Star marker dedication at the memorial.



A single rose taped to a tile honors a soldier at Montana Veterans Memorial.

TRIBUNE PHOTO/JULIA MOSS

July 25- 2020



# Honoring our heroes

**TOP:** Vivian Rambo and her grandchildren, Kira Rambo, 10, and Tucker Orr, 7, honor family members at the Montana Veterans Memorial on Monday. **RIGHT:** Joyce Newman secures flags to the name tiles of her father-in-law, husband and two sons at the Montana Veterans Memorial on Monday. **BOTTOM:** The Malmstrom Air Force Base Honor Guard waits for the Memorial Day 2020 ceremony to begin on Monday at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls. **PHOTOS BY RION SANDERS/GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE**



### Honoring Gold Star families

The Memorial Day Celebration at the Montana Veterans Memorial will have an added ceremony. As always we will be there to pay honor to those who have served in all branches of the military and for a special dedication of a new Gold Star Memorial Marker. This Memorial Marker is in honor of all families who have lost a loved one in service to our country through the United States Armed Forces. All family members representing all conflicts, all branches of service and all circumstances of death are supported. Family members are referred to as Gold Star families of the fallen and/or survivors. The Great Falls Flower Growers and the Rainbow Garden Club are members of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs and worked together to purchase and install the marker in the patriotic flower garden at the Memorial. Our two clubs also installed a Blue Star Memorial marker east of the MVM overlooking the Missouri River. We are inviting all Gold Star families to be honored at the dedication, if you have lost a family member in service to this country, from any branch of the military please contact Gallia Fundis at 406-761-2961.

Gallia Fundis, Great Falls

MAY - 2020



Marine Bill Hunter May 25 2020



BOELLER ROBERT J BUSINESS	KIT T	RAMSTEAD ELMER ARMY	ROBISON RUSSELL NAVY
HAK BLESSING TH E E	ARKVID J AAF	ESTER OY P ARMY	OLSON NELS E USMC
DUTCHAK MICHAEL J ARMY	D IO	CRANE LESTER W ARMY	MORTENSON EDMUND H ARMY
HAK BOGDI EL M Y	RICHARD NAVY	MADSEN VINAL H USAF	JACKSON JAMES A NAVY
JOHNSON CLIFFORD A USAF	J	VICK DAREN J ARMY	LEE JON E ARMY
IDS ROFFLE LIN Y	LEONAR USAF	SCHAEFER SCOTT ARMY	ROATH ERNEST ARMY
THOMPSON MARVIN E USAF	THC PH ↑	MOPSETTE AY	ONSON GE R ARMY
NE BRUNK ROBERT R		KOUBEK JOHN	NUR KIMBERLY A
			OCON THOM

The Memorial Day ceremony at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls is at 2 p.m. May 25. Residents can't attend because of the COVID-19 situation, but they can watch live on Facebook. TRIBUNE PHOTO/JULIA MOSS

# Memorial Day ceremony going online due to pandemic

Karl Puckett  
Great Falls Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

This year's Memorial Day observance at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls will be conducted virtually for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Montana Veterans Memorial Association announced Wednesday that the group would conduct the May 25 ceremony as planned.

Residents can't attend in person due to social distancing requirements.

But they can view the ceremony live on the Montana Veterans Memorial Facebook page or a video at [montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://montanaveteransmemorial.org).

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, which prevents large gatherings, it's still important to honor the men and women, especially Montanans, who have died serv-

ing in the military, said retired Army Lt. Col. Richard Liebert, who will serve as master of ceremonies.

"We want to make sure we honor our fallen," Liebert said. "We're going to carry on with tradition."

No matter what state or city is suffering, the United States is still one, said Liebert, citing the nation's motto, *E pluribus unum*, "Out of many, one."

A live radio broadcast also is being considered. "We're trying to step up with the technology," Liebert said.

The ceremony will be abbreviated to about 30 minutes and feature 15 or 16 people.

"Just a minimum amount to carry on the ceremony properly with dignity, and ensure we don't have high numbers of people," Liebert said.

The Malmstrom Air Force Base Honor Guard will provide the colors.

Lt. Col. Heather Bodwell, Air Force chaplain, will do the invocation.

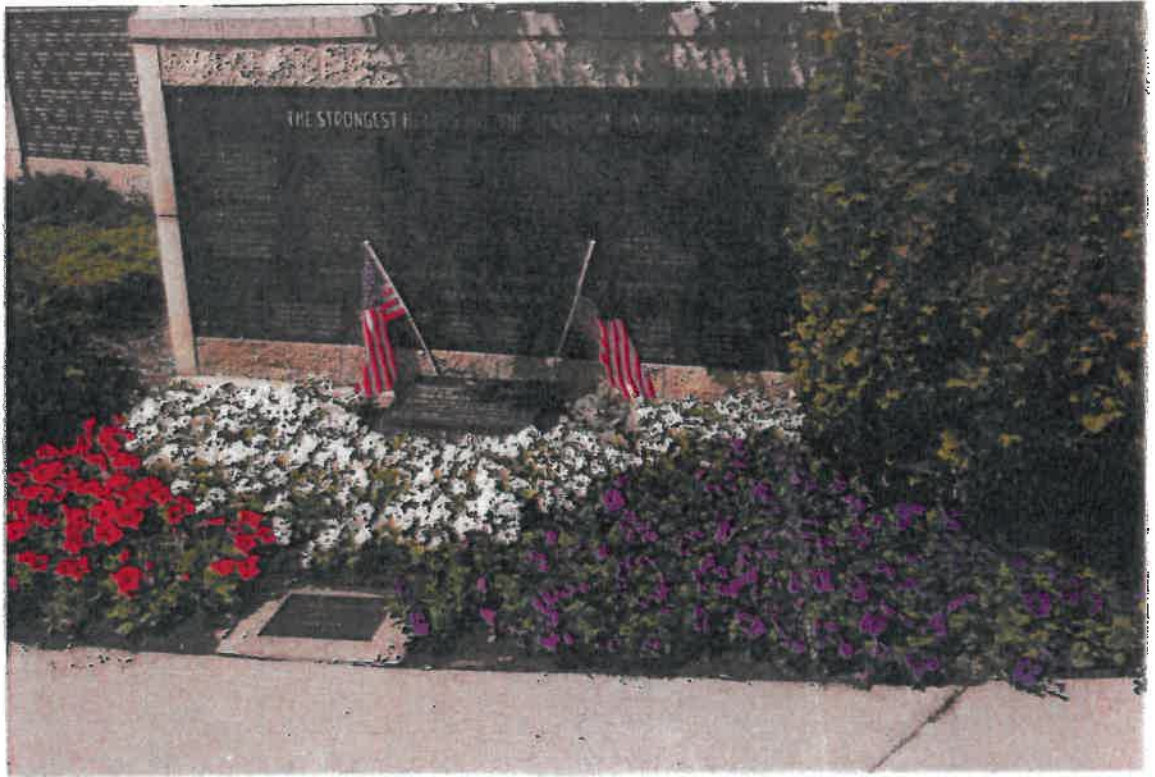
Retired Navy Capt. Ken Robison will give the keynote speech, which will focus on a historical perspective of previous crises and how the nation moved forward.

The ceremony traditionally attracts a high number of seniors who respect tradition, Liebert said. That's the same demographic being hard hit by COVID-19 making it important to follow health guidelines.

"It's kind of the irony of it all," Liebert said. Thousands of veterans across the country have succumbed to the disease, including many in nursing homes, Liebert noted.

The ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. The memorial feature tiles bearing the names of 7,237 veterans. An additional 80 tiles will be added this year.

See MEMORIAL DAY, Page 4A





# FLYING LEGENDS *of Victory Tour*

COMING TO  
GREAT FALLS

18  
335972



Great Falls International Airport  
Monday Aug 3 - Sunday Aug 9

Host: Holman Aviation  
1940 Airport Ct, Great Falls, MT



## B-25J Bomber Tours and Rides

### Book a Ride

Rides on Fri, Sat, and Sun  
Book Online at [www.azcaf.org/tour](http://www.azcaf.org/tour)  
Seats are limited! Weather or other factors beyond our control may affect ride availability  
COST \$560 Front Jump Seat  
\$325 Waist Gunner Seat

### Plane Tours

Tour the historic *Maid In The Shade*  
Mon, Fri-Sun 2-5 PM, Tue-Thu 9am-6pm  
\$10 per person, \$20 per family

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organization Visit  
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# WWII-era aircraft will make stop in Great Falls

From Staff reports Great Falls Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Members of the Montana Veterans Memorial Association have joined forces with Holman Aviation and the Great Falls International Airport to welcome the historic B-25J Mitchell bomber aircraft to Great Falls today through Sunday.

The visit to the Great Falls of the World War II-era aircraft is part of the Commemorative Air Force Airbase Arizona (CAF) Flying Legends of Victory Tour.

The CAF is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to "educate, inspire and honor through flight and living history experiences."

The B-25 was developed by North American Aviation and used mainly as a low altitude strafe and skip bomber.

Rides will be given Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and can be booked online at [www.azcaf.org/tour](http://www.azcaf.org/tour). The cost is \$590 for a front jump seat and \$325 for a waist gunner seat.

The costs are used to support the op-



A B-25J Mitchell bomber aircraft will make a stop in Great Falls. It can be toured from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday and Friday through Sunday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday for \$10 a person and \$20 for a family of four.

ARIZONA COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE MUSEUM

eration and maintenance of the historic aircraft.

The Maid in the Shade aircraft can be toured from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday and Friday through Sunday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday for \$10 a person and \$20 for a family of four.

Nicknamed "Maid in the Shade," the

See PLANE, Page 6A

B-25J aircraft is scheduled to arrive at Holman Aviation at the Great Falls International Airport at 11 a.m. Monday.

"Maid in the Shade" was used during WWII for low-level bombing and strafing missions. Out of nearly 10,000 B-25s built there are only 34 that

is the tax base.

The reports also note that the city will gain significant tax revenue from the three projects once the five-year benefit concludes.

Karl Puckett covers the city of Great Falls and Cascade County for the Tribune. He can be reached at [kpuckett@greatfallstribune.com](mailto:kpuckett@greatfallstribune.com) or 406-757-5383, or on Twitter at @GFTrib\_KPuckett.

## What's next

The City Commission meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Due to the COVID-19 health concerns,

Commission members may attend in person, via virtual meeting or telephonically. Comments may be sent via email before noon Tuesday to [commission@greatfallsmt.net](mailto:commission@greatfallsmt.net). Include agenda item and in subject line. Call in during specific public comment periods at 406-761-4788.

Agenda packets

<https://greatfallsmt.net/meetings>

Listen: Channel City-190, cable channel 190 or <https://greatfallsmt.net/livestream>.

**WORLD WAR II AVIATION accomplishments, highlights and sacrifices**

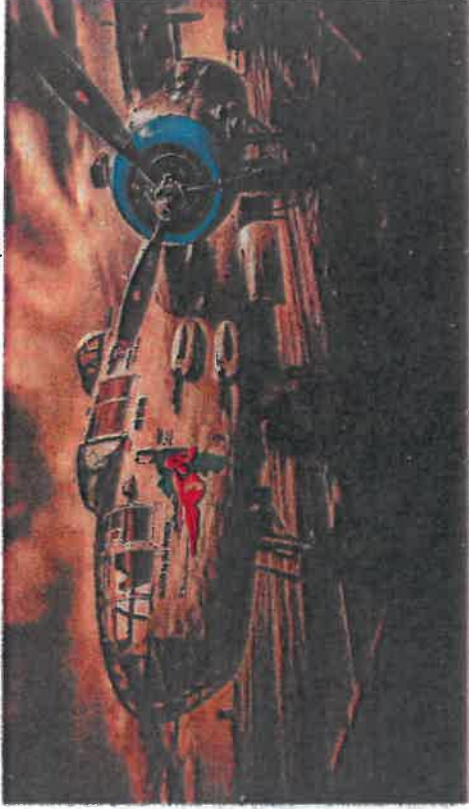
- Wartime training: 193,000 pilots; 50,000 navigators; 45,000 bombardiers; 300,000 gunners; 1.4 million mechanics; technicians and specialists.
- US produced 325,000 aircraft by America's men and women; 65,000 lost overseas and stateside.
- USAAF peak size 2.4 million men and women; 52,000 killed.
- 800 US bases, 16 overseas.
- B25 crew: six – two pilots; bombardier/nose gunner; flight engineer; radio operator/waste gunner and tail gunner; crew size varied from 4-6.
- B25 wingspan 68 ft., length 53 ft., max. altitude 25,000 ft., cruising speed 230 mph, top speed 275 mph.
- 'Maid in the Shade' one of 34 still flying out of almost 10,000 built.
- B25 medium bomber bomb load 5,000 lbs but carried in armaments.

**COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE (CAF) MISSION: EDUCATE – HONOR – INSPIRE, [www.commemorativeairforce.org](http://www.commemorativeairforce.org);**  
**Arizona Wing: [www.azcaf.org](http://www.azcaf.org)**

**The Order of Daedalians, a fraternal and professional Order of military pilots, [www.daedalians.org](http://www.daedalians.org)**

**Montana Wing Civil Air Patrol, [mtwg.cap.gov](http://mtwg.cap.gov)**  
*Service Organization for our youth*

**The Flying Legends Tour sponsored by  
Holman Aviation and the Great Falls International Airport**



**'MAID IN THE SHADE' B25J  
WORLD WAR II BOMBER  
FLYOVER AND WELCOME  
CEREMONY**

**1100 HOURS, 3 AUGUST 2020  
HOLMAN AVIATION  
GREAT FALLS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**'FLYING LEGENDS' TOUR 3-9 AUG 2020  
OF THE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE  
ARIZONA BASE  
TO  
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA**



**Brigadier General (Retired) Rex W. Tanberg Jr.** rose to be the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Joint Force Headquarters in 2005 and retired in 2006. His began his career upon enlistment into the Montana Air National Guard (MANG) in 1966 and became an F-102 Avionics Crew Chief. In 1970 he was commissioned and graduated from Undergraduate Pilot Training and in 1972 became a combat-ready fighter pilot in the 186<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, and flew F-102 and F-106 jets through to 1986, attaining the rank of Lt. Colonel and served in numerous squadron staff assignments.

MANG converted to the F-16 aircraft in 1986 and then Lt. Colonel Tanberg served as Deputy Commander for Operations and in 1994 became the 120<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing's Vice Commander. In 1995 he served on a 90-day tour at the National Guard Bureau and became the 120<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Commander on 1 July 1998. After command, Colonel Tanberg served as the MANG's Chief of Staff in October 2001 and was promoted to Brigadier General 1 July 2002.

*General Tanberg has flown over 5,000 hours in the F-102, C-131, F-106 and F-16. He is a graduate the Air War College in 1992 In-Residence and the Air Command and Staff College in 1981. Some of his major awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters. The general is also a member of the Order of Daedalians, 99<sup>th</sup> Flight of Great Falls and is a fraternal and professional order of American military pilots.*

The WWII 'Maid in the Shade' B25J Mitchell bomber is owned by the Arizona Base of the Commemorative Air Force ([azcaf.org](http://azcaf.org)). Almost 10,000 Mitchells were built, and this one rolled out of Kansas City, KS on 8 June 1944, and flown by the 4<sup>th</sup> Ferry Group to Georgia for overseas duty. It flew 15 combat missions over Italy and Yugoslavia to destroy railroad bridges. After the war, this veteran was one of only a few hundred left in service to the US Air Force doing support and liaison missions. She almost went to a Phoenix scrapyard in 1960 but was saved to be a crop-duster in Alabama.

In 1975, This B25J was bought by WWII buffs and went to Minnesota and later had a harrowing journey in 1981 to Mesa, Arizona when donated to the CAF. It spent 27 years being restored to flight status. The 'Mitchell' (named after General Billy Mitchell, a famed Army Air Corps aviation pioneer) first flew in 1940. It proved to be one of the most versatile aircraft of WWII, particularly only a few months after Pearl Harbor. On 18 April 1942, 16 'Mitchells' flew off the deck of the USS Hornet carrier in the bold Doolittle Raid which revived US morale and decisively disrupted Japan's war plans. 732 B25s went through Great Falls to Russia under the WWII Lend Lease.

**WWII B25J Bomber 'Maid in the Shade' Flyover and Welcome Ceremony**  
**11:00AM, 3 Aug 2020, Holman Aviation**  
**Great Falls International Airport**  
**Arizona Base Commemorative Air Force (CAF)**

'Maid in the Shade' B25J Flyover, Landing and taxi to ceremony position with patriotic music support

Welcome.....Richard Liebert, MT Veterans Memorial Assoc., Lt. Col (Ret.), US Army.

Presentation of the Colors.....Malmstrom AFB Honor Guard

National Anthem..... Melissa Dascoullias

Invocation..... Chaplain Bill Mesaseh, Capt., USAF

Pledge of Allegiance..... Civil Air Patrol Cadets, Malmstrom Composite Squadron

Keynote Speaker.....Rex W. Tanberg (Ret.) Brigadier General, MANG

'Maid in the Shade' B25J History.....Gene Adkins, AZ Base CAF

Benediction.....Chaplain Bill Mesaseh, Capt., USAF

The Montana Veterans Memorial Association established and maintains this memorial to honor and recognize all veterans in this unique Place of Honor.

Montana Veterans Memorial Association  
 PO Box 3524, Great Falls, Montana 59403-3524  
 (406)454-9070  
[www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org)  
 Non-Profit Tax ID #0530543



The MVMA honors all our veterans, especially those of WWII, who brought victory and the men and women of the Nation that made the Arsenal of Democracy possible. The MVMA also thanks our local service teams: VFW Posts 1087 and 4669; American Legion Posts 3 and 341; the DAV; Marine Corps League Det. 688

July 30 2020

## Drake

the Gibson Park Band Shell at 7 p.m. July 30.

People are encouraged to bring a flag. There won't be speeches, no politics, no signs and no sponsors. It appears these folks have a touch of cabin fever from the COVID-19 lockdowns and want to sing as if no one is listening.

Songs will include "God Bless America" and "Let there be peace on Earth," a personal favorite of Winters. There will be no band, as the event is a cappella.

"I'm tired of the divisiveness and negativity and it's just time to make something positive happen in the world and bring people together and see all the good things and to entertain each other and enjoy our country," he said.

Dawn Bushard is going to be leading the singing from the stage. He said the others helping to organize the event are Jan Cahill, Bud Nicholls and Johnny Walker.

"We're the instigators," he said. "Want to bring some grins."

I was curious if the Cascade City-County Health Department was as excited about the event as it recently implemented an order which limited indoor events to 250 people and 500 people at outdoor venues.

Winters assured me they have been contacted.

He said they are urging people to be cautious, practice social distancing and to wear a mask.

"We talk with our masks on and we can sing with our masks on," he said.

Regardless, the event will go on, whether it be five people, 50 people or 100 people in the audience.

"We will be there," he said.

I hope some folks attend and that everyone has a good time. But please bring

a mask, keep your distance and be cautious - no handshakes or hugs.

Winters and the "instigators" are right. We do need some grins.

**TUNE UP:** I always get a kick out of Michael Winters when he calls.

It's usually about something on veterans or about a breakfast for the public. But I like talking to the former mayor, no matter the occasion.

Winters says he and a few other folks are organizing a patriotic singalong at

## Obituaries

# Drake

Continued from Page 1M

Building Program Capital land grant funds.

**ENCORE:** I wasn't able to waddle up to Great Falls on Thursday night for the community sing along at the Gibson Park hand shell, but it sounds like I missed a good time.

I checked in with Michael Winters, one of the organizers of the "Celebrate US" event, the day after.

He tells me it was a lot of fun. "Well, your voice isn't hoarse," I said.

"It couldn't have been too great." "Well, if I sing in the shower the water runs away," he shot back.

I was going to thrust and parry back with "Well, there's one singer in my family and that's the sewing machine," but decided to keep it tucked away for another day.

Winters, the former mayor, and a few friends, who he has labeled as "the instigators," decided to have a community sing along in the age of COVID-19.

He said they would practice social distancing and Winters tells me that is what happened.

"Common sense was in abundance," Winters said.

He said about 75 people showed up to give their tonails a workout.

Winters said the event included a presentation of colors from the honor guard in which the U.S. flag and flag of Montana were flown.

"It was absolutely amazing," he said, adding there are plans to do it again in late August.

He said they sang "God bless America" and other patriotic songs. It also included the Montana state song and a rendition of "Taps" in which even the crickets remained silent, Winters said.

I asked how Dawn Bushard did in leading the singing from the stage.

He couldn't praise her enough. "She could stand on a mountain top and most people could hear her at the base," he said. "If I had enough money I would get her on America's Got Talent," he said.

I laughed, but am still trying to figure out what that means.

I am glad it worked out, and as Cascade County was recently named a COVID-19 "hot spot" by the state because of coronavirus activity, I do fear for people's safety. But it sounds like folks were careful. And for those who attended, I hope you had a good time and

See DRAKE, Page 4M

Department of Veterans Affairs



*The Veterans Day National Committee*

*hereby designates*

*Montana Veterans Memorial*

*as a Regional Site for the Observance of*

*Veterans Day 2020*



*Robert L. Wilkie*

**Robert L. Wilkie**

**Secretary of Veterans Affairs**

**Chairman, Veterans Day National Committee**

**VA**



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

**Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Washington DC 20420**

**OCT - 6 2020**

**Mr. Richard D. Liebert  
Montana Veterans Memorial Association  
P.O. Box 3524  
Great Falls, MT 59403**

**Dear Mr. Liebert:**

On behalf of the Veterans Day National Committee, I am pleased to announce that Montana Veterans Memorial has been selected as a Regional Site for the 2020 Veterans Day Commemoration.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert L. Wilkie will notify your governor of this selection and encourage support for your Veterans Day activities. We will also ask the Department of Defense to provide military liaison officers, where available, to help support your event.

The 2020 Veterans Day Poster has been finalized and we will send your supply as soon as they are available.

Please contact Melissa Heintz at 202-461-7772 or by email at [Vetsday@va.gov](mailto:Vetsday@va.gov) if you have any further questions.

Congratulations again on your selection and best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Hutton".

**James E. Hutton  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs**

**Enclosure**



**A Legacy of Service,  
Hope for the Future**  
[www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

DAV is a nonprofit charity that provides a lifetime of support for veterans of all generations and their families, helping more than 1 million veterans in positive life-changing ways each year. Annually, the organization provides more than 600,000 rides to veterans attending medical appointments and assists veterans with well over 200,000 benefit claims. In 2019, DAV helped veterans receive more than \$21 billion in earned benefits. DAV's services are offered at no cost to all generations of veterans, their families and survivors.

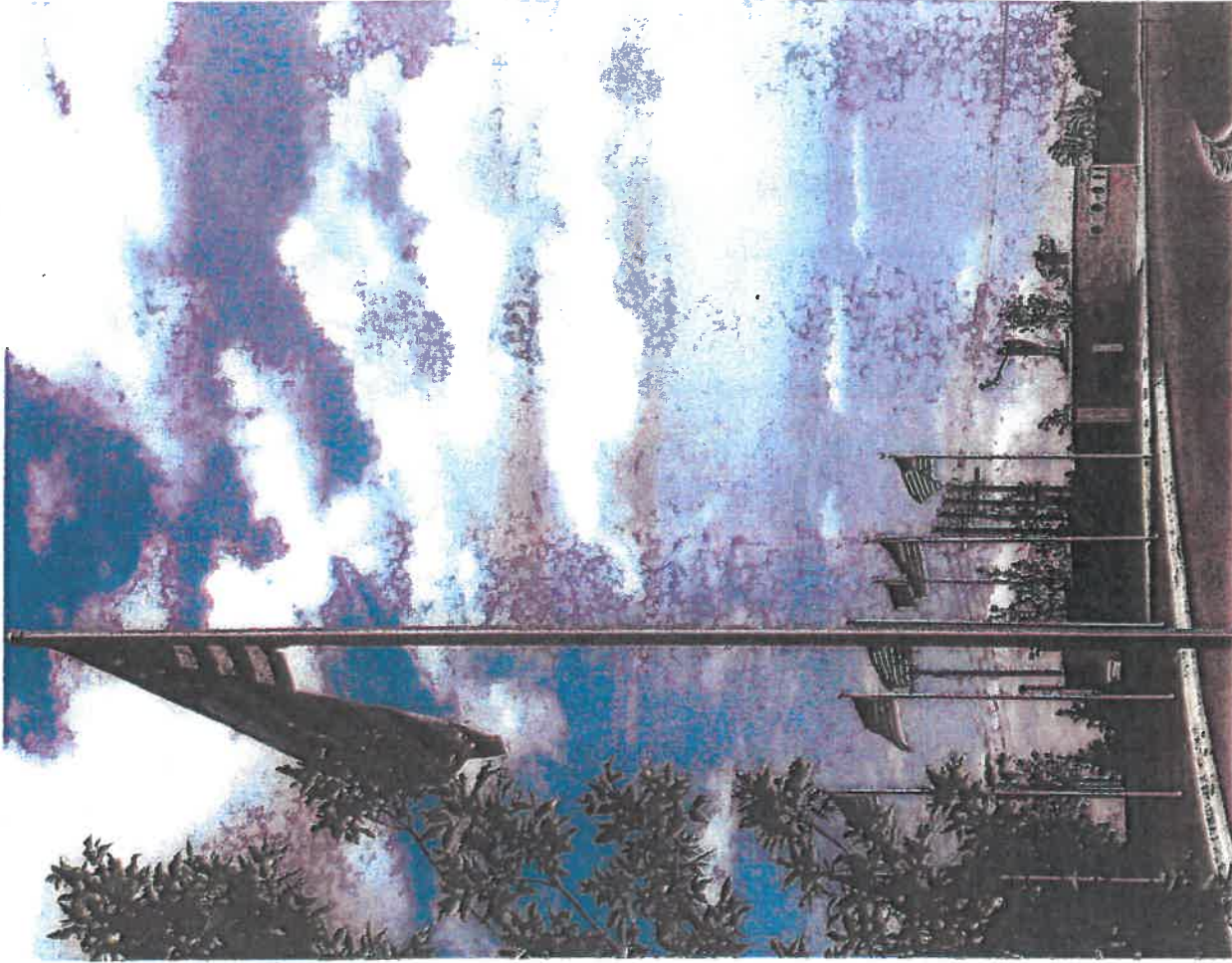
DAV is also a leader in connecting veterans with meaningful employment, hosting job fairs and providing resources to ensure they have the opportunity to participate in the American Dream their sacrifices have made possible.

With nearly 1,300 chapters and more than 1 million members across the country, DAV empowers our nation's heroes and their families by helping to provide the resources they need and ensuring our nation keeps the promises made to them.

The hard facts of history brought about DAV's creation, but compassion and service have been the tools that made our organization what it is today.

A great deal has changed since DAV was founded, but this much has remained the same: those who return from war must have men and women waiting for them at home who will stand with them as they work to take back their lives. Through DAV, veterans and civilians alike can fully express their appreciation and concern for those who have risked so much for our country.

The historical account of DAV starts after World War I to the men and women of today returning from Iraq, Afghanistan and beyond. It tells the story of the veterans, families and civilians who made the commitment that none of America's heroes should ever go it alone.



**A PLACE OF HONOR**

**VETERANS DAY NOV. 11, 2020**





**Col. Anita A. Feugate Opperman** - became 341st Missile Wing's commander at Malmstrom Air Force Base in August 2020 and leads the wing's 4,000 service members to defend the USA with combat-ready warriors and nuclear forces. Her responsibilities include base support, maintenance, security and the operation of the Minuteman III ICBM's, 15 missile alert posts and 150 launch sites throughout central Montana. She was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC in 1994 at Indiana University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in political science. She then went on to operations with the Minuteman III ICBM, Space and Satellite Systems, missile combat crew assignments, including command, operations, training and instruction and from 2016 to 2018 she was in the 341st Operations Group at Malmstrom.

Before returning to Malmstrom, Col. Feugate Opperman served as the director in the Office of Security Cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. She held numerous joint and senior staff assignments at United State Air Force Space Command and at the Pentagon involving Strategic Deterrence, Congressional Relations and United States Air Force Force Development. Col. Feugate Opperman earned a Master's degree in management science in 1998 from Lesley College, Mass. In 2006, she graduated from the Air Command and Staff College and in 2014 from the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Her many awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters.

**JOE PARSETTICH** joined the Air Force in 1968 and served in combat at Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base, Vietnam with the 377th Security Police Squadron from 1968-69. He was honorably discharged in 1972. Parseitch was elected National 2nd Junior Vice Commander of more than 1 million members of the DAV (Disabled American Veterans). He is very active locally as a mentor coordinator and mentor for the Veterans Treatment Court, he hosts the "On Point - Veterans Talk Radio" show on local KGPR public radio 89.9 FM, and serves on boards to help End Veteran Homelessness in Great Falls. He also serves as a member of the Cascade County Suicide Prevention Team and the Veterans Advisory Council for the Great Falls Vet Center. Parseitch was also appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to serve on the Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee.

Parseitch has received many local honors from service groups including the Daughters of the American Revolution in 2017 and was the first 'non-Marine' to earn the "Distinguished Citizens Award" from the Marine Corps League in 2018. He has served as a DAV volunteer van driver and on the Military Funeral Honor Guard. Parseitch and his wife, Meg live in Great Falls and have seven children, three foster children, 32 grand-children and six great-grand children.



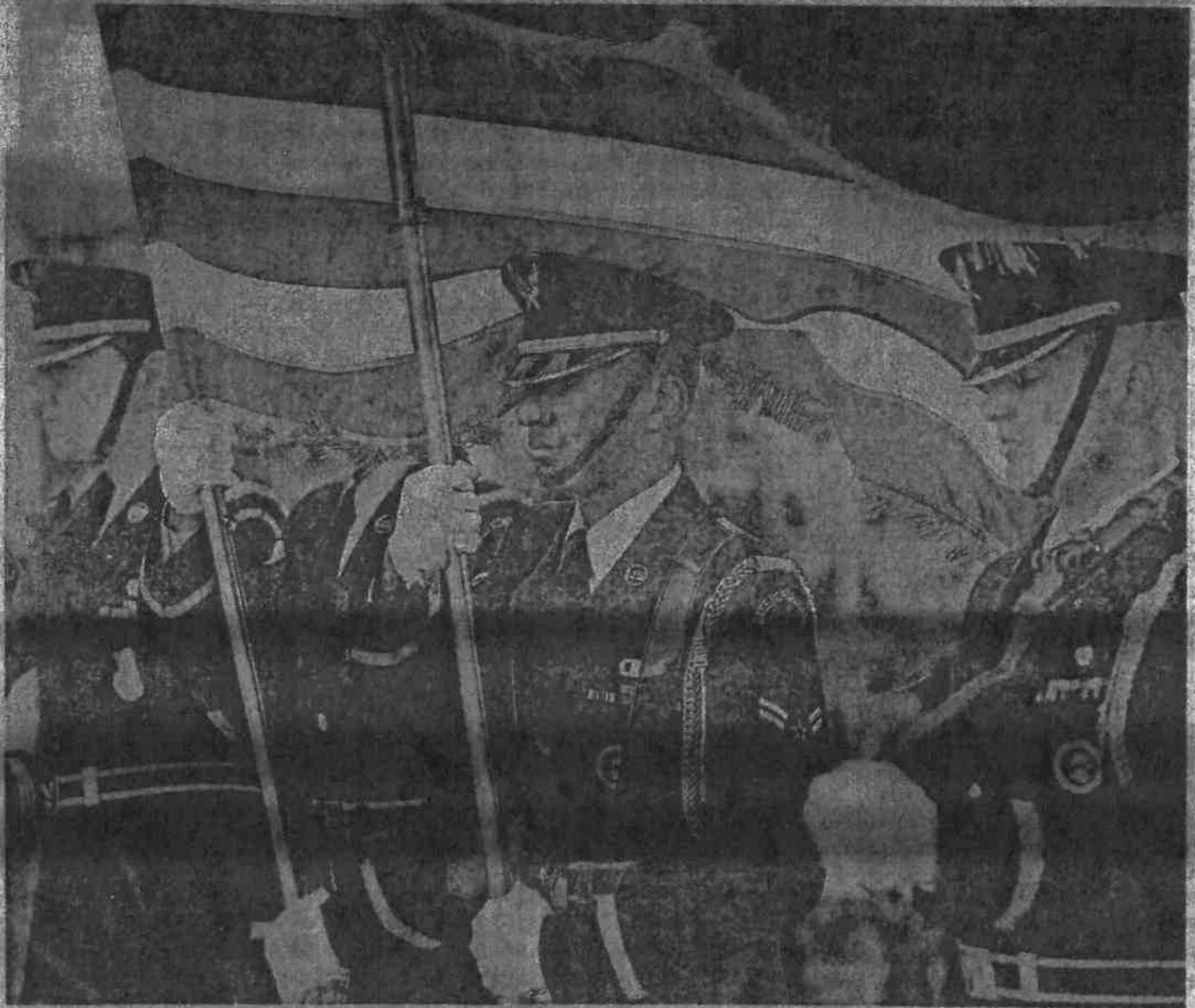
**MONTANA VETERANS MEMORIAL Veterans Day Ceremony**  
**11:00 a.m. - Wednesday - Nov. 11, 2020**  
**Great Falls, Montana**

*As per public health guidance, the ceremony is limited to participants only and will be broadcast live to a virtual audience thru Facebook Live and will be posted on the Memorial's website. (The media is welcome to cover the event.)*

- Welcome**.....President, Montana Veterans Memorial Assoc. (MVMA)
- Master of Ceremonies**.....Retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Starnell Darko
- Presentation of the Colors** ..... Malmstrom AFB Honor Guard
- Invocation**.....Air Force Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Heather Bodwell
- National Anthem**.....Retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Dana Darko
- Pledge of Allegiance** ..... Air Force Junior ROTC Cadets, Great Falls High School
- Keynote Speaker**.....34 1st Missile Wing Commander Col. Anita A. Feugate Opperman
- 'Bagpipe Salute'** .....Jesse Callender, Great Falls Shrine Pipe Band
- 100th Anniversary of DAV Recognition**.....DAV 2nd Vice Commander Joe Parseitch
- Benediction**.....Air Force Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Heather Bodwell
- Taps**.....Marine Corps League Detachment 688

**MONTANA VETERANS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION** established and maintains this memorial to honor and recognize all veterans. A Veteran is defined as any man or woman of any age who has served in any branch of the military of the United States of America in any capacity, and to honor men and women living and deceased equally. Memorial tiles are available at \$250. Contact the MVMA with your request at:

Montana Veterans Memorial Committee, Inc., PO Box 3524,  
 Great Falls, Montana 59403-3524 - (406) 454-9070,  
[www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org) - Non-Profit Tax ID #0530543



The Malmstrom Air Force Base Honor Guard presents the colors during a past Veterans Day ceremony at the Montana Veterans Memorial. This year's ceremony will be conducted virtually via Facebook. TRIBUNE PHOTO/RION SANDERS

# COVID-19 forces Veterans Day ceremony to go online

Traci Rosenbaum Great Falls Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Great Falls' annual Veteran's Day ceremony will happen this year, but it will look a little different because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Nov. 11, the public is invited to view the event live on the Montana Veterans Memorial Facebook page beginning at 11 a.m.

Due to health department guidelines, only ceremony participants may attend in person.

The ceremony's schedule and participants are as follows.

- Welcome: President, Montana Veterans Memorial Association
- Master of Ceremonies: Retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Starnell Darko
- Presentation of the Colors: Malmstrom Air Force Base Honor Guard
- Invocation Air Force Chaplain Lt. Col Heather Bodwell

- National Anthem: Retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Dana Darko

- Pledge of Allegiance: Air Force Junior ROTC Cadets, Great Falls High School

- Keynote Speaker: 341st Missile Wing Commander Col. Anita A. Feugate Opperman

- Bagpipe Salute: Jesse Callender, Great Falls Pipe Band

- 100th Anniversary of Disabled American Veterans Recognition: DAV 2nd Vice Commander Joe Parsetich

- Benediction: Air Force Chaplain Lt. Col. Heather Bodwell

- Taps: Marine Corps League Detachment 688

Starnell Darko was the sergeant major for the 652nd Regional Support Command (Rear Detachment) at Fort Harrison.

Keynote speaker Feugate commands the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base.

Disabled American Veterans 2nd Ju-

nior Vice Commander Joe Parsetich will recognize the 100th anniversary of the DAV. More than 1 million DAV members help America's disabled veterans access benefits such as medical care, employment and education.

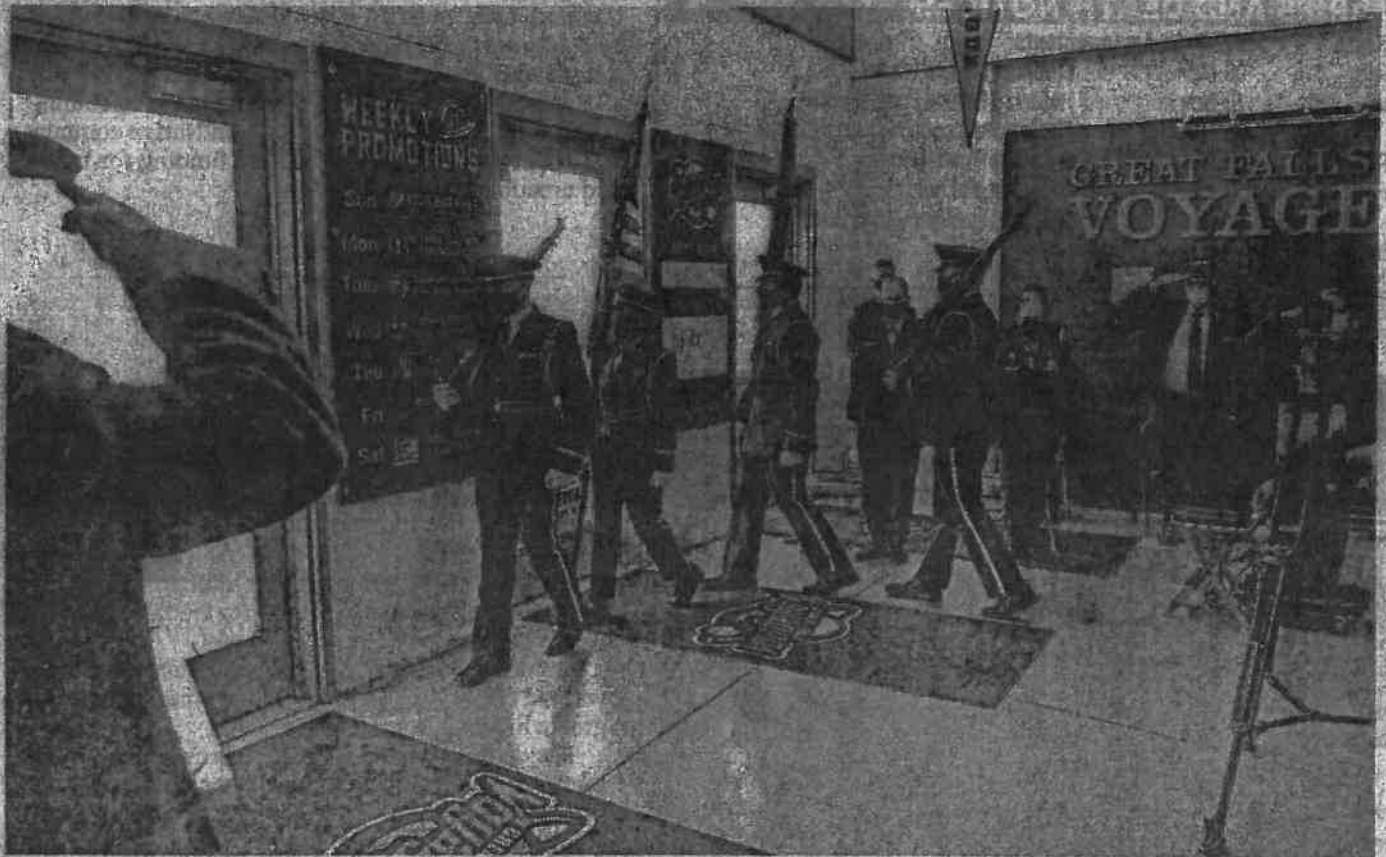
The Veterans Administration and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie designated the Montana Veterans Memorial as an official 2020 National Veterans Day Regional Site.

The Veterans Day National Committee recognized the memorial for providing a proper tribute to veterans and serving as a role model for other communities planning Veterans Day ceremonies.

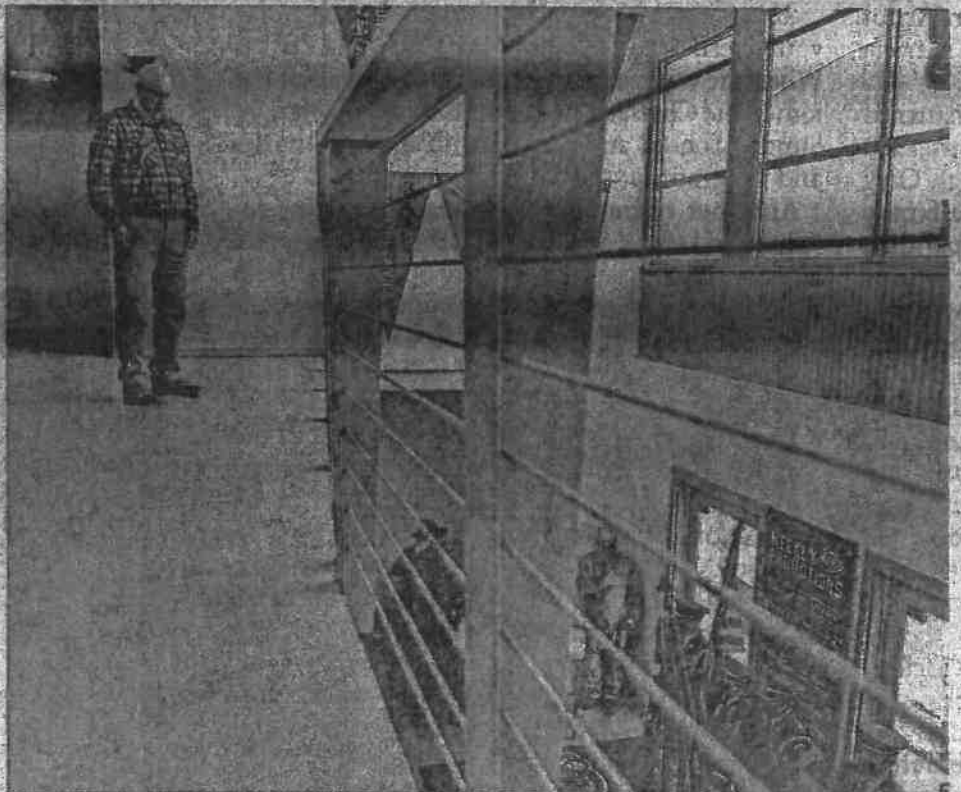
The Montana Veterans Memorial is located at 1009 25th St. N.

For more information, contact Michael Winters at 406-799-0179 or email him at [mjwinters@bresnan.net](mailto:mjwinters@bresnan.net). Richard Liebert can be reached by phone at 406-736-5791 or email at [wvranche@3rivers.net](mailto:wvranche@3rivers.net).

# VETERANS HONORED



**TOP:** The Malmstrom Air Force Base Honor Guard opens the Veterans Day Ceremony on Wednesday morning in the lobby of Centene Stadium. The ceremony was moved inside due to the cold weather; because of COVID-19, the ceremony was streamed online. **RIGHT:** Retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Dana Darko sings the national anthem at the ceremony.



PHOTOS BY RION SANDERS/

GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

11-11-2020

# MONTANA



Cadets with the JROTC program with the Great Falls Public Schools district marched and ran 14 miles along the River's Edge Trail to honor prisoners of war and those missing in action from the Bataan Death March. The cadets raised more than \$3,000 to dedicate a bench and plaque at the Montana Veteran's Memorial, additional funds were donated to the veteran's Treatment Court. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT

# JROTC cadets dedicate bench at Veterans Park

## Cadets from local schools raised over \$3,000 for project

Staff report Great Falls Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Cadets with the JROTC program at the Great Falls Public Schools district dedicated a bench to honor Montana's veterans at the Veteran's Memorial Park on this past week.

The GFPS JROTC began fundraising for the bench and bronze plaque earlier this fall when 29 cadets between C.M. Russell High School and Great Falls High marched 14 miles along the River's Edge Trail to recognize and honor prisoners of war and those missing in action during the Battle of Bataan. Some cadets marched and carried American flags while a smaller group ran the distance with a POW/MIA flag.

The cadets collected pledges per mile and other donations from businesses and community members, all together they raised \$3,440 to purchase the bench and plaque. The plaque directs people to a list of POWs and MIAs from Montana. Remaining funds will be donated to the Montana Veteran's Treatment Court.

Those who completed the 14-mile march received a ribbon to wear on



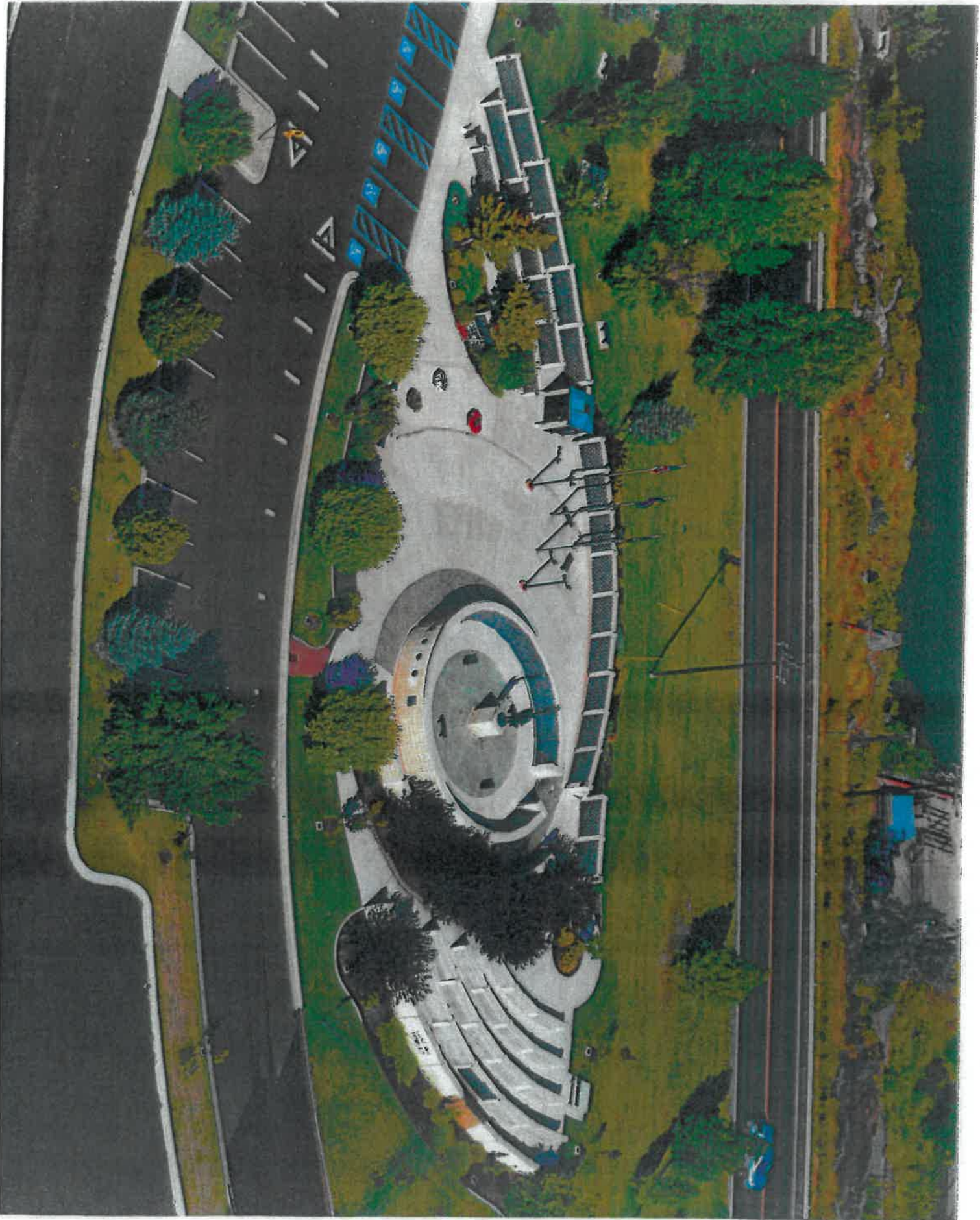
The cadets dedicate a bench and plaque at the Montana Veteran's Memorial.

their uniform.

The JROTC Bataan Death March memorial hike is a nationwide JROTC initiative to honor the American and Filipino prisoners of war who were forced to march over 60 miles after the three-

month Battle of Bataan in the Philippines during World War II by the Imperial Japanese Army.

The JROTC program at GFPS is in its fifth year and is the only Air Force JROTC unit in the state.



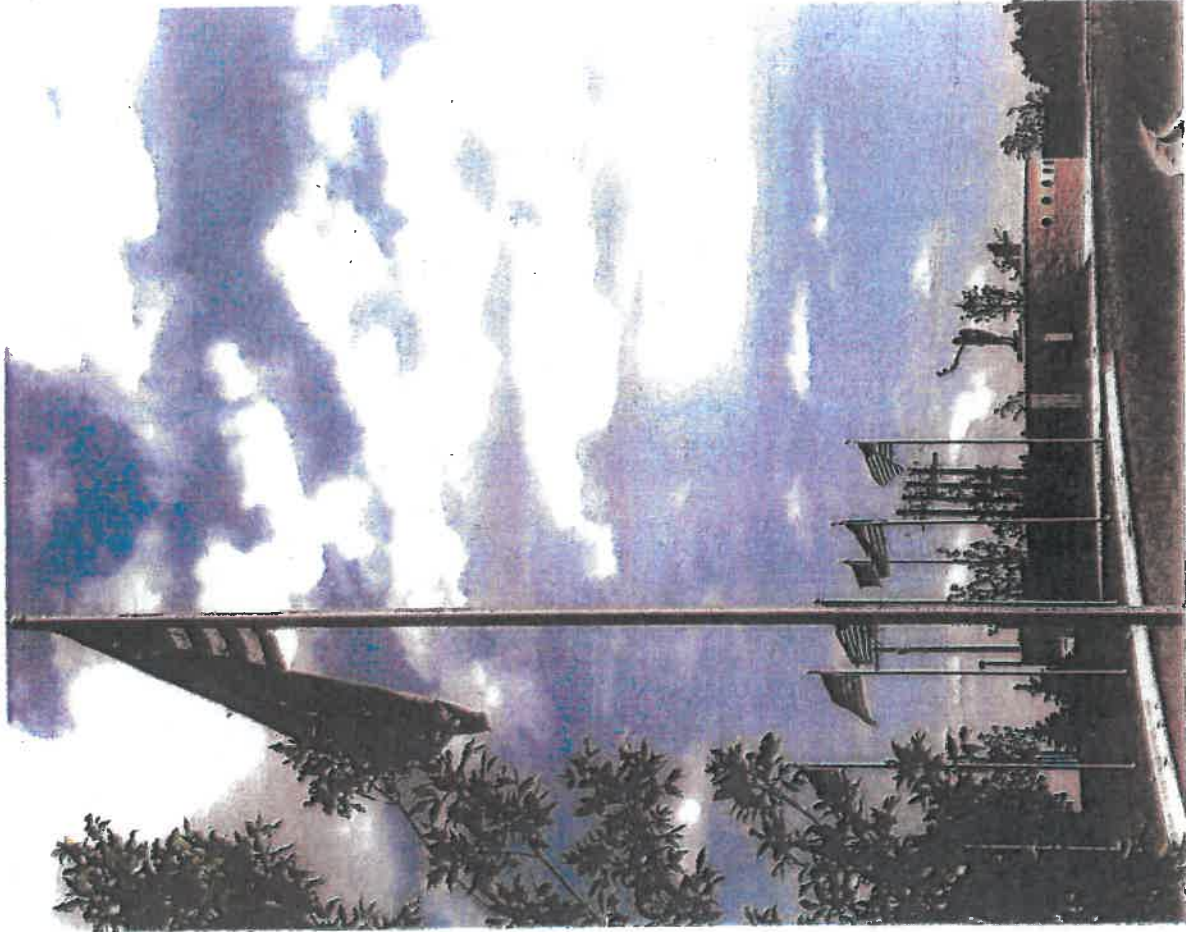
## Montana's Fallen Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan

Army PFC Kristofer Stonecipher, Missoula  
 Army Reserve 1st Lt Edward Saltz, Big Fork  
 Army PFC Owen D. Witt, Sand Springs  
 Marine Cpl. Dean Pratt, Stevensville  
 Marine Lance Cpl. Kane Funtke, Kallisell  
 Army Staff Sgt. Aaron Holleyman, Glasgow  
 Marine Cpl. Raleigh C. Smith, Troy  
 Mt. Army NG Sgt. 1st Class Robble McNary, Lewistown  
 Marine Lance Corporal Nicholas Bloem, Belgrade  
 Army 1st Lt. Josh Hyland, Missoula  
 Army Sgt. Travis Arndt, Great Falls  
 Marine PFC Andrew Bedard, Missoula  
 Army Cpl. Michael MacKinnon, Helena  
 Marine Cpl. Phillip Baucus, Wolf Creek  
 Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy Sandvick Monroe, Chinook  
 Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Charles Komppa, Absarokee  
 Army PFC Shawn Murphy, Butte  
 Marine Lance Cpl. Nicklas Palmer, Great Falls  
 Army Spc. Scott Dytman, Harrison  
 Army Spc. James Klekna, Missoula  
 Army PFC Matthew Zeimer, Glendive  
 Army Staff Sgt. Shane Becker, Helena  
 Army PFC Kyle Bohrsen, Phillipsburg  
 Army Spc. Michael Frank, Great Falls  
 Army SSG Travis Atkins, Bozeman  
 Army Spc. Donald Young, Helena  
 Army Staff Sgt. Yance Gray, Ismay  
 Army Cpt. Andrew Pearson, Billings  
 Army Sgt. James A. McHale, Fairfield  
 Marine Sgt. Trevor Johnson, Forsyth  
 Army Lt. Col. Garnet R. Derby, Missoula  
 Army Staff Sgt. Terry Lynch, Shepherd  
 Marine Cpl. Nicholas Uzenski, Bozeman  
 Army PFC, Nicholas S. Cook, Hungry Horse  
 Army Spc. Jonathan A. Pilgeram, Eden  
 Army PFC, Michael A. Rogers, White Sulphur Springs  
 Marine Cpl. Stewart S. Trejo, Whitefish  
 Army PFC Daren A. Smith, Helena  
 Army PVT Timothy J. Hutton, Dillon  
 Army Spc. Antonio Bunside (Many Hides), Browning  
 Navy Tech Airman Andrew Scott Charpentier, Great Falls  
 Army Staff Sgt Thaddeus S. Montgomery, West Yellowstone  
 Army PFC Michael A. Rogers, White Sulphur Springs  
 Marine Cpl. Stewart S. Trejo, Whitefish

## Montana Ties:

Marine Lance Cpl. Nathan Wood  
 Army SSG Patrick L. Lybert  
 Army Sgt. Lucas T. White  
 Army Sgt. Michael Sturdivant  
 Army Sgt. John K. Dagggett  
 Army Staff Sgt. Shane Barnard

## A PLACE OF HONOR



## MEMORIAL DAY 2021





**MAJOR GENERAL JOHN P. HRONEK II** is the Adjutant General for the State of Montana; serving as Commander of the Montana National Guard and the Director of the Department of Military Affairs. He is responsible to the Governor of Montana to provide Army and Air National Guard military forces that are ready to deploy worldwide and accomplish military missions in support of national defense, homeland security, natural disasters, domestic emergencies, and military support to state and local governments. As the Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Hronek serves on the Governor's cabinet as the principal military advisor and is responsible to the Governor for State Disaster and Emergency Management, Homeland Security, Veteran Affairs, Counter-Drug Support to Civilian Law Enforcement, the Montana National Guard Youth Challenge Program and the STARBASE Program. Prior to his appointment as the Adjutant General he served as the Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander, Air Education and Training Command. In this position he assisted with formulating, developing, and coordinating policies and programs impacting more than 107,700 Air National Guard members.

The general is a command pilot with over 4,100 hours in the F-106, F-16, F-15C, and C-130H. He served as the NGB Director of A5/8/9 Plans, Programs and Requirements, Air National Guard Readiness Center, Joint Base Andrews, Md. Assistant Adjutant General, Montana Air National Guard, Chief of Staff, Montana Air National Guard and Commander of the 120th Airlift Wing in Great Falls, Mont., where he led the Wing in two major aircraft conversions from the F-16C to the F-15C and the F-15C to the C-130H. He has served three combat tours in Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq and Balad Air Base, Iraq.

**CHIEF EARL OLD PERSON** became a member of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council in 1954 and served as tribal chairman from 1964 to 2008. In July 1978, Old Person was appointed Honorary Lifetime Chief of the Blackfeet Nation. Old Person holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Montana. In 1998, he was awarded the Jeanette Rankin Civil Liberties Award by the American Civil Liberties Union of Montana. In 2007, he was inducted into the Montana Indian Hall of Fame. Earl also played on the Browning Basketball Team in 1963 and competed for the State Championship Title in Great Falls, Mont. The Chief has demonstrated his leadership in service on numerous national and international organizations ranging from the USDA, Museum of the Rockies, and the National Council of Indian opportunities to name a few.

**PROFESSOR MARVIN WEATHERWAX Sr.** teaches Blackfeet language and culture studies at the Blackfeet Community College in Browning, Mont. He is a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran and the generations of the Weatherwax family have served the nation from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and up through the present at home and overseas.

**TIMOTHY F. DAVIS** is the Chairman of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council and has served on the council since 2016. He studied at MSU in Bozeman, Mont. and has been Director of Indian Health Services in Browning.

**Memorial Day 31 May 2021**

**2 PM, Montana Veterans Memorial, Great Falls, MT**

(The ceremony will be recorded to Facebook, website and KGPR local public radio)

Welcome..... Michael Winters, President  
Montana Veterans Memorial Assoc. (MVMA)

Master of Ceremonies..... Bill Bronson, MVMA

Presentation of the Colors..... Mainstrom AFB Honor Guard

Invocation..... Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Heather Bodwell, USAF, MAFB

National Anthem..... Sound of the Falls Choral ( Jillip

Pledge of Allegiance..... Cuts Wood Academy, Jim McNeely

Keynote Speaker..... Maj. Gen John P. Hronek,  
Adjutant General, State of Montana

"Bagpipe Salute"..... Jesse Callender, Great Falls Shrine Pipe Band

Montana Veterans Memorial Blackfeet Tribal Blessing... Chief Earl Old  
Person; Tim Davis; Maring Weatherwax, Blackfeet Veterans Honor Guard

'God Bless America'..... Sound of the Falls Choral Group

Fallen Montana Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan Salute.... U. S. Senate  
Reps: Lt. Col. Richard Liebert (Ret. USA) and Bell Detail

Benediction..... Jim Porter, Chaplain, MVMA

Taps..... Marine Corps League, Det. 688, Great Falls High School Band

The Montana Veterans Memorial Association established and maintains this memorial to honor and recognize all veterans. A Veteran is defined as any man or woman of any age who has served in any branch of the military of the United States of America in any capacity, and to honor men and women living and deceased equally. Memorial files are available for \$250. Contact the MVMA with your request at:

Montana Veterans Memorial Association • PO Box 3524 • Great Falls, MT 59403-3524  
Phone (406) 454-9070 • www.montanaveteransmemorial.org  
Non-Profit Tax ID #0530543



# MONTANA



The Memorial Day ceremony at the Montana Veterans Memorial in 2016. The annual ceremony this year will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Great Falls. [montanatribune.com](#)

# Memorial Day event set at veterans memorial

**Eric Peterson**

MVMA Public Relations

The Montana Veterans Memorial Association will conduct its 16th annual Memorial Day ceremony at the veterans memorial at 2 p.m. on Monday, May 31, 2021.

The memorial was dedicated on Memorial Day 2006 and was established to honor and recognize all veterans, living or deceased. An introductory welcome will be provided by MVMA founding member and President Michael Winters.

MVMA Board Member Bill Bronson will serve as this year's master of ceremonies. The presentation of colors will be carried forward by members of the Malmstrom Air Force Base Honor Guard, followed by an invocation given by U.S. Air Force Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Heather Bodwell.

The keynote speaker will be Montana Adjutant General Maj. Gen. John P. Hronek. Hronek serves as the commander of the Montana National Guard

**Members of the public can also view the ceremony live on the Montana Veterans Memorial Facebook page and can hear the ceremony broadcast live over the Great Falls public radio station, KGPR 89.9 FM.**

and the director of the Department of Military Affairs for the state of Montana.

A traditional bagpipe salute will be provided by Jesse Callender of the Great Falls Pipe Band. The Montana Veterans Memorial will receive a Blackfeet Tribal Blessing from Chief Earl Old Person.

Tim Davis, Marvin Weatherwax, and the Blackfeet Veterans Honor Guard will also participate in the ceremony. Members of the Sound of the Falls choral group will sing "The Star Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America" during the event.

The ceremony will conclude with a benediction provided by MVMA Chap-

lain Jim Porter and a trumpet player sounding Taps to honor all service members who have passed. A limited amount of seating will be available at the memorial for the Memorial Day ceremony.

Members of the public can also view the ceremony live on the Montana Veterans Memorial Facebook page and can hear the ceremony broadcast live over the Great Falls public radio station KGPR 89.9 FM.

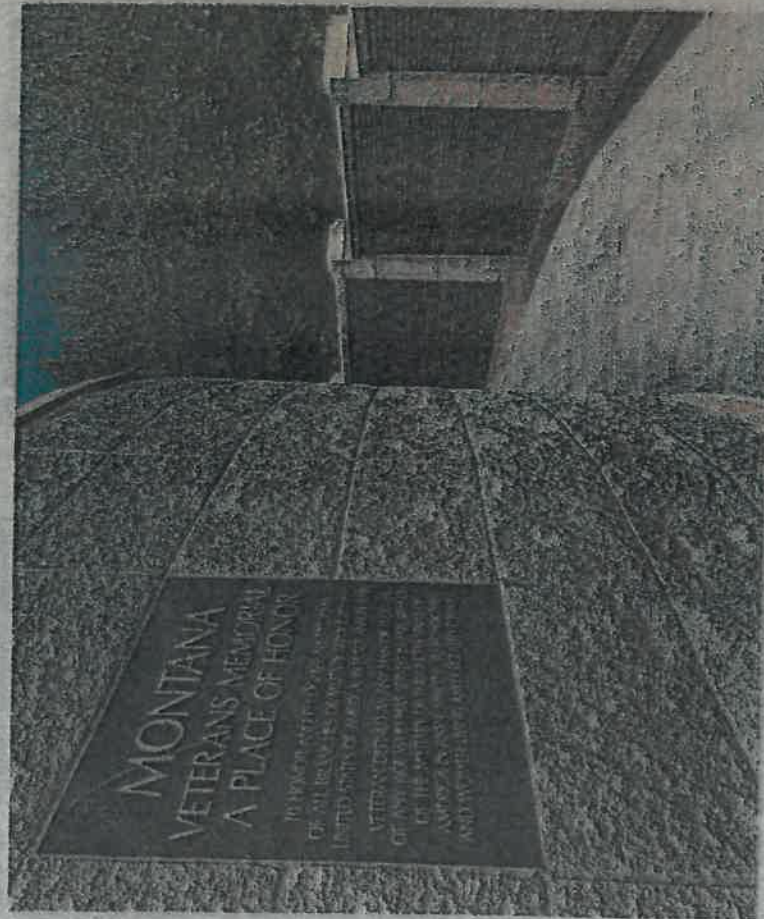
For more information on the Memorial Day ceremony to be held at the Montana Veterans Memorial, please contact Richard Liebert at 406-734-5791 or [wwranch@3rivers.net](mailto:wwranch@3rivers.net).

MAY 31- 2021

# HUNDREDS TURN OUT FOR CEREMONY



About 200 people turned out for the Memorial Day ceremony at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls Monday. Maj. Gen. John P. Hronek, Commander of the Montana National Guard, was the keynote speaker. Chief Earl Old Person, Professor Marvin Weatherwax and Timothy F. Davis of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council also spoke. Bill Bronson of the Montana Veterans Memorial Association served as Master of Ceremonies, and MVMA President Michael Winters gave opening remarks. PHOTOS BY GRADY HIGGINS/GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE















A single rose taped to a tile honors a soldier during a past Memorial Day ceremony at Montana Veterans Memorial. This year's ceremony will be held on May 30 at 2 p.m. in Great Falls. TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

## Montana Veterans Memorial Memorial Day activities announced

**Eric Peterson**  
MVMA Secretary

The Montana Veterans Memorial Association has announced the Memorial Day speakers and activities scheduled to be held at 2 p.m. at the Montana Veterans Memorial on May 30, 2022.

An introductory welcome will be provided by MVMA President Starnell Darko. Darko is a retired United States Army Command Sgt. Maj. and last served in that position for the 652nd Regional Support Command (Rear Detachment) located at Fort Harrison, Mont.

United States Navy veteran and former television personality Art Taft will serve as the master of ceremonies for the event.

Members of the United States Air Force Honor Guard assigned to Malmstrom Air Force Base will present the colors for the ceremony and Chaplain (Capt.) Christopher Pitts will provide the invocation and benediction for the ceremony.

The Vocal Patriots Chorus will sing the "Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America" during the ceremony. Members of the Boy Scouts of America will also lead those in attendance in the "Pledge of Allegiance."

The keynote speaker this year will be Bishop Marcus Collins of the Church of God in Christ. Bishop Collins is a military veteran and served as a member of the United States Air Force.

Jesse Callender, a member of the Great Falls Pipe Band, will perform a traditional bagpipe salute. Callender has played the bagpipes for numerous Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies held at the Montana Veterans Memorial.

Professor Marvin Weatherwax, Sr. will speak in remembrance of Chief Earl Old Person and all Blackfeet military veterans who have served.

The "Armed Forces Medley" will be performed by members of the Great Falls Municipal Band. The band has been entertaining city residents with music since its founding in 1894.

To conclude the ceremony, "Taps" will be sounded on a trumpet by a member of the Great Falls High School Band.

This will be the 17th annual Memorial Day ceremony to be held at the Montana Veterans Memorial. The memorial was dedicated during Memorial Day 2006 and honors and recognizes all veterans, living or deceased.

Members of the media are encouraged to attend the ceremony and cover the event for their news organizations.

The Memorial Day ceremony will be broadcast live on KGPR 89.9 FM and can also be viewed as a Facebook Live event on the MVMA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/mtvetsmemorial>).

For more information on the Montana Veterans Memorial Memorial Day ceremony, please contact Richard Liebert at 406-736-5791 or email: [wvranch@3rivers.net](mailto:wvranch@3rivers.net).

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# SUNDAY TRIBUNE

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022

PART OF THE USA  
A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER

## Better weather conditions aid crews working New Mexico fire

### Blaze contained around 40% of perimeter

**Paul Davenport and  
Susan Montoya Bryan**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Improved weather conditions Saturday helped firefighters battling several large wildfires in New Mexico, including

the largest active fire in the nation.

A cold front that blew in Friday lowered temperatures, raised humidity levels and provided cloud cover over the largest fire, which is burning in northern New Mexico, said Dennis Burns, a fire behavior analyst. The cloud cover "shades the fuels so that the fire has to work harder and struggles to burn that material."

"It's actually given us some decent

conditions to go after this and probably for the next few days," Burns said.

More than 2,700 firefighters and other personnel were assigned to the 6-week-old blaze, which Saturday was contained around 40% of its perimeter. The fire is one of several active large fires in the

See **WILDFIRES**, Page 9A



## **The Story of the Montana Veterans Memorial**

This memorial began in 1999 as a series of conversations with friends, associates and like-minded people. As they talked, it became clear that Great Falls and its military community did not have a Veterans memorial dedicated to those serving in the armed forces, past and present. *The challenge was compelling.* A committee was formed and Michael J. Winters elected president. This memorial was his vision, albeit Michael's vision was not so grand a monument.

The committee met twice a month. Road trips around the state were made to garner ideas and there were talks with city officials. As the weeks went by, Davidson & Kehr architects presented a rendering for the beautiful monument you can experience now.

Months and more meetings brought an attorney and an accountant on board to help through the paperwork maze. Contractors of all means and local businesses stepped forward to offer assistance. The Montana Secretary of State recognized the group as a viable non-profit association. Officials from Malmstrom Air Force Base assisted with getting approval from the Pentagon and Secretary of the Air Force which allowed the 819<sup>th</sup> Red Horse USAF and 219<sup>th</sup> Red Horse squadrons to participate and join with the 18<sup>th</sup> Mobile Bn of the US Navy Reserve Sea Bees of Helena. With the expertise and leadership of Dwayne Nelson, Ron Meyers and a young captain named Peter Gulbranson, the primary construction was completed – two days before many of the men and women were deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. The Warrior Angel was placed atop the center pillar to watch over our new friends in active service and in Guard and Reserve units.

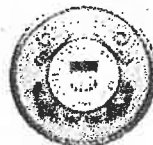
The citizens of Montana came forward with labor, materials and enthusiasm and now thousands of families of have donated tiles – and benches/trees - in the name of their beloved veterans. The memorial's volunteers have continued to improve and enhance the Place of Honor for future generations.

### **Founding Members of the memorial:**

***Michael J. Winters, Barbara Winters, Fran Keith, Harry Keith (RIP), Dolores and Robert Heinen (RIP), Frank Tuss, David Bissonette (RIP)***

### **Additional Members past and present who have made the Place of Honor possible:**

***Joe Fletcher, Sam Pappas (RIP), Rodger McConnell (RIP), Joe and Norma Olguin, Donna Burdette, Dwayne Nelson, Ron Meyers, Larry Hannah, Marvin Brewster (RIP), Richard Liebert, Ted Lorenz (RIP), Chris Christiaens, Ernie Matthews (RIP), Del Dieziger, Steve Hilton (RIP), J. Budd Hovey, Robert Heinz, Alice Hendryz (RIP), Donna Halvorson (RIP), Jan Michaelson, Russ Jacques, Nicole Gilcher, Gina Winters-McDermott, Bill Bronson, Star Darko, Eric Peterson, Rick English, Bill Rodgers, Jim Porter, Herb Gilmore, Jim Benner, George Kynett, Terry Tobiness, Mike McCleary, Janis McGregor, Duane Mechels, Larry Malby, Bill Rogers, Gene Davidson, Ed Olson, Bob Hames, Wayne Kelly, Mark Reck, Roger Arntson***



**Ken Robison** loves books, and he loves history and historic preservation. He is a chronicler of neglected Western history and active in historical and preservation groups in Fort Benton, Sun River and Great Falls. He was born and educated in Montana, and after graduating from Great Falls High School and the University of Montana, Captain Ken Robison served thirty years in Naval Intelligence through many contingency operations and the Vietnam War. Ken is author or co-author of twelve books including *Montanans in the Great War: Open Warfare Over There*, the second and final of his books on Montanans in World War I. His newest work is *Cold War Montana* which highlights Montana's significant involvement in that struggle from the end of WWII, through the Korean and Vietnam Wars and ending with the collapse of the Soviet Union.



Since the centennial of the WWI Armistice in 2018, Bells of Peace have been tolled across the USA and Globe in remembrance of all those who served in WWI at 11am on Veterans Day. Bells of Peace also commemorates the WWI Armistice of November 11, 1918, when the guns fell silent, and bells tolled on the Western Front after four years of brutal combat. The Bells are tolled 21 times, and five seconds apart in honor of all who have served and especially this year in honor of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier dedicated right after World War I on Armistice Day, 11 November 2021.

Veterans Day was first established as Armistice Day by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919. In 1938 Armistice Day was enacted as an official American holiday. But eventually after WWII, citizens felt that the veterans of all wars should be recognized, not just those of WWI. In 1954, President Eisenhower and Congress changed the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1978 the observance of Veterans Day was returned to November 11<sup>th</sup> by popular sentiment and is why we honor it at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in remembrance of the original armistice day

Please visit [www.bells-of-peace.com](#) to learn more about this hallowed place, the history and how the U.S. Army's Third Infantry Regiment became Tomb Guardians.

# Honoring the forgotten



The Malmstrom Air Force Base Honor Guard presents the colors at Thursday's Veterans Day ceremony at the Montana Veterans Memorial.  
PHOTOS BY RYON SANDERS/GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

# Forgotten

Continued from Page 1A

marble sarcophagus atop a hill overlooking Washington D.C.

In attendance at that ceremony on Nov. 11, 1921, was the last traditional Chief of Montana's Crow Indian Nation, Chief Plenty Coups. Montana historian, Ken Robison, recounted the event.

"In a powerful action (he) placed his own war banner and coups stick on the tomb, tying forever the Crow Nation to the unknown warrior," Robison told the audience. "From the coup stick hung Plenty Coups' first feather, earned in battle, symbolic of the start of his long and difficult trail as head Chief."

"I hope the Great Spirit will grant that all this Nation's warriors will have not given up their lives in vain," Plenty Coups told the assemblage of dignitaries and common citizens, "and that there will be peace to all men here after. That is the Indians' hope and prayer."

Two weeks later, the overarching commander of French forces during the first World War, Field Marshall Perdi-



David Danko, who retired as chief master sergeant from the U.S. Air Force, sings the national anthem during the Veterans Day ceremony at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls on Thursday. RICH SANDERS/GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

nand Foch visited Plenty Coups in Montana at the Crow Nation, where the general was inducted as a member of the

Crow Nation.

Spin forward to the beginning of the 21st century.

doesn't matter. So that was the biggest thing that they wanted. When they were talking to us, they said they want to matter," Sunchild said.

Patrick Yewald-Peltier - co-founder of Red Medicine, which provides services to empower Native communities in politics - noted that while the map looks equal at face value, it discounts the unique demographics of the Flat-

"If we can get every Native American that's eligible to come out and vote, it doesn't matter what the map looks like. It will make a difference," Sunchild said.

The race for the new western district already has four Democratic candidates and three Republicans, and the primary will be held in June 2022, according to The Associated Press. Democratic candidates include former state lawmaker

At that time, generations beyond when a French commander and chief and a Crow Chief met to commemorate the common sacrifices of their people, Great Falls still had no official, dedicated memorial to its veterans.

Montana Veterans Memorial Advisory board member, Bill Bronson, told the audience that, "as true form for Americans," those who wanted to see a true Veterans Memorial in Montana - formed a committee.

"This committee of earnest individuals always had a vision of what could be, and the passion to make it a reality," Bronson said. "In the end, all joined together with this committee to make this vision come true."

Today the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls includes plaques, with the names and military division affiliation of more than 7,500 Montana service members.

David Murray is Natural Resources/Agri-Industry reporter for the Great Falls Tribune. To contact him with comments or story ideas, email [dmurray@greatfallstribune.com](mailto:dmurray@greatfallstribune.com) or call (406) 403-3257.

# Map

Continued from Page 1A

"The issue is in either district, the Native population isn't enough to influence the vote in any direction," Sunchild said. "So, whoever the candidates are on either side of the aisle, they can just

barriers in voting today, as Indigenous people living on reservations are geographically isolated and often don't have traditional mailing addresses or equal access to voting resources, like election offices.

Tribes in Montana filed a lawsuit in May, challenging laws that eliminate Election Day voter registration, and a provision that prohibits the paid collection of absentee ballots. Plaintiffs West-

# Montana's connection to Tomb of the Unknown Soldier recounted

David Murray Great Falls Tribune | USA TODAY NETWORK

A public commemoration of the sacrifices made by U.S. military veterans, both active and retired, has been an essential component of Veterans Day since the celebration's inception as "Armistice Day" in 1919. This year's celebration carried with it the added significance of commemorating the 100th anniversary of creation of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C.

"We seek to remember the countless faces of the unknown soldiers. They are fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, famous and loved," said U.S. Air Force Chaplain, Sarah Bendele, during the invocation at Thursday's Veterans Day commemoration in Great Falls. "Today we remember the continued grit and determination of these soldiers. It speaks to an immeasurable love for us all to achieve a true peace in our nation and our world."

A century ago, only three years distant from the conclusion of World War I, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated. The body of an unknown U.S. serviceman who had given his life on a battlefield in France was interred within a



Attendees of the Veterans Day ceremony stand for the presentation of colors at the Montana Veterans Memorial on Thursday morning.



ation. These reservation is not tribal reservation in the id, adding that non-Natives Native people in Lake County includes portions of the Mar- tion.

mericans account for about population in Lake County, census data. And the ma- e County voters in the 2020 ad for Trump and Republi- leve Dahms and Rep. Matt

port getting all the tribes in sional district so that it can at. We're saying that tribes y in this state, so having at the congressional districts five district would be most tribes, instead of having can-leaning districts." Ya- r said.

Tom Winter, state Rep. Laurie Bishop, public health professional Cora Neumann and lawyer Monica Tranel. Republican candidates include pastor Mary Todd, former state lawmaker Al Olszewski and former U.S. Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke.

Members of the public will have a final chance to comment in writing or testify via Zoom on Nov. 12 about the congressional map. Visit [intredistricting.gov](http://intredistricting.gov) for more details.

### Native Americans face a legacy of disenfranchisement

Native Americans weren't granted citizenship status in the United States until 1924 with the passage of the Snyder Act. But states continued to prevent Indigenous people from voting. The passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 brought voting rights to Indian Country, and additional language provisions in 1975 helped people who spoke Native languages vote.

Native Americans continue to face

ern Native Voice and Montana Native Vote alleged that the new laws disenfranchised Indigenous voters.

Supporters argue that eliminating Election Day registration will allow election clerks to focus on voting on Election Day. Lawmakers who sought to prohibit paid ballot collection said they did so to improve election security, although voter fraud has not been an issue in Montana.

Though some may assume Native Americans have little at stake in federal elections, experts say issues critical to Indian Country, like tribal sovereignty, violence against women, access to quality health care and land and water rights, are always on the ballot.

Nora Mohie covers Indigenous communities for the Great Falls Tribune. She can be reached at [nmohie@greatfalls-tribune.com](mailto:nmohie@greatfalls-tribune.com). Follow her on Facebook @NoraMohie, Journalist or on Twitter @NoraMohie.

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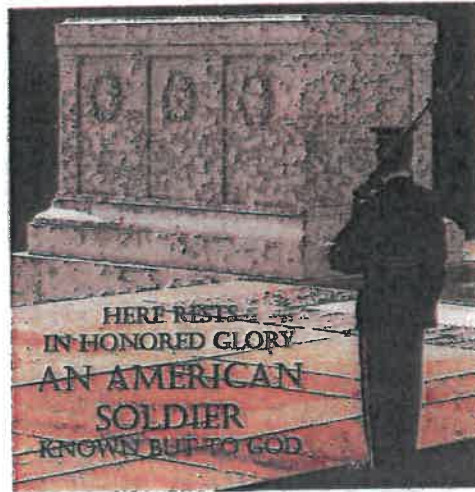
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Special Information

## **The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is Arlington National Cemetery's most iconic memorial.**



The neoclassical, white marble sarcophagus stands atop a hill overlooking Washington, D.C. Since 1921, it has provided a final resting place for one of America's unidentified World War I service members, and Unknowns from later wars were added in 1958 and 1984. The Tomb has also served as a place of mourning and a site for reflection on military service.

### **World War I and the Creation of the Tomb**

During World War I, U.S. service members received aluminum identification discs, the precursors to "dog tags," to aid the process of identifying remains. The War Department created a new unit in the Quartermaster Corps, the Graves Registration Service, to oversee burials. During and after World War I, however, Americans debated whether bodies should be repatriated. With more than 100,000 U.S. casualties (compared to fewer than 3,000 in the Spanish-American War), repatriation was more challenging.

France and Great Britain, which suffered significantly higher casualties and more unknown dead than did the United States, barred repatriation of their citizens' remains. To ease the grief of their citizens, France and Great Britain each repatriated and buried one unknown soldier on Armistice Day, November 11, 1920. Great Britain buried its Unknown Warrior inside Westminster Abbey in London, and France buried its Unknown Soldier at the base of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. These unknowns would stand in for other British and French service members whose remains could not be identified.

The American policy, by contrast, gave options to families of the war dead. If requested by the next of kin, the remains of service members who died in Europe would be transported to anywhere in the United States at no cost to the family. Or, families could choose to bury their dead at permanent U.S. military cemeteries to be established in Europe.

In December 1920, New York Congressman and World War I veteran Hamilton Fish Jr. proposed legislation that provided for the interment of one unknown American soldier at a special tomb to be built in Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of the legislation was "to bring home the body of an unknown American warrior who in himself represents no section, creed, or race in the late war and who typifies, moreover, the soul of America and the supreme sacrifice of her heroic dead."

In October 1921, four bodies of unidentified U.S. military personnel were exhumed from different American military cemeteries in France. On October 23, 1921, the four caskets arrived at the city hall of Châlons-sur-Marne (now called Châlons-en-Champagne), France.

Town officials and members of the U.S. Army's Quartermaster Corps had prepared the city hall for the selection ceremony. Early on the morning of October 24, 1921, Maj. Robert P. Harbold of the Quartermaster Corps, aided by French and American soldiers, rearranged the caskets so that each rested on a shipping case other than the one in which it had arrived. Major Harbold then chose Sgt. Edward F. Younger of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 50th Infantry, American Forces in Germany, to select the Unknown Soldier. Sgt. Younger selected the Unknown by placing a spray of white roses on one of the caskets.

From Châlons-sur-Marne, the Unknown journeyed by caisson and rail to the port town of Le Havre, France. From Le Havre, the USS Olympia transported the Unknown Soldier's casket to Washington, D.C. The Unknown arrived at the Washington Navy Yard on November 9, 1921. After arriving in Washington, D.C. on November 9, 1921, the Unknown lay in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. About 90,000 visitors paid their respects during the public visiting period on November 10, 1921.

On November 11, 1921, the Unknown was placed on a horse-drawn caisson and carried in a procession through Washington, D.C. and across the Potomac River. A state funeral ceremony was held at Arlington National Cemetery's new Memorial Amphitheater, and the Unknown was interred in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Nationwide, Americans observed two minutes of silence at the beginning of the ceremony. President Warren G. Harding officiated at the ceremony and placed the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration, on the casket. Numerous foreign dignitaries presented their nations' highest awards, as well.

For the complete history of the Tomb, Arlington National Cemetery and the 'Old Guard' Third Infantry Regiment, US Army, please visit [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil) to learn about this hallowed place, its history, and how the U.S. Army's Third Infantry Regiment became Tomb Guardians.

## The History of Veterans Day

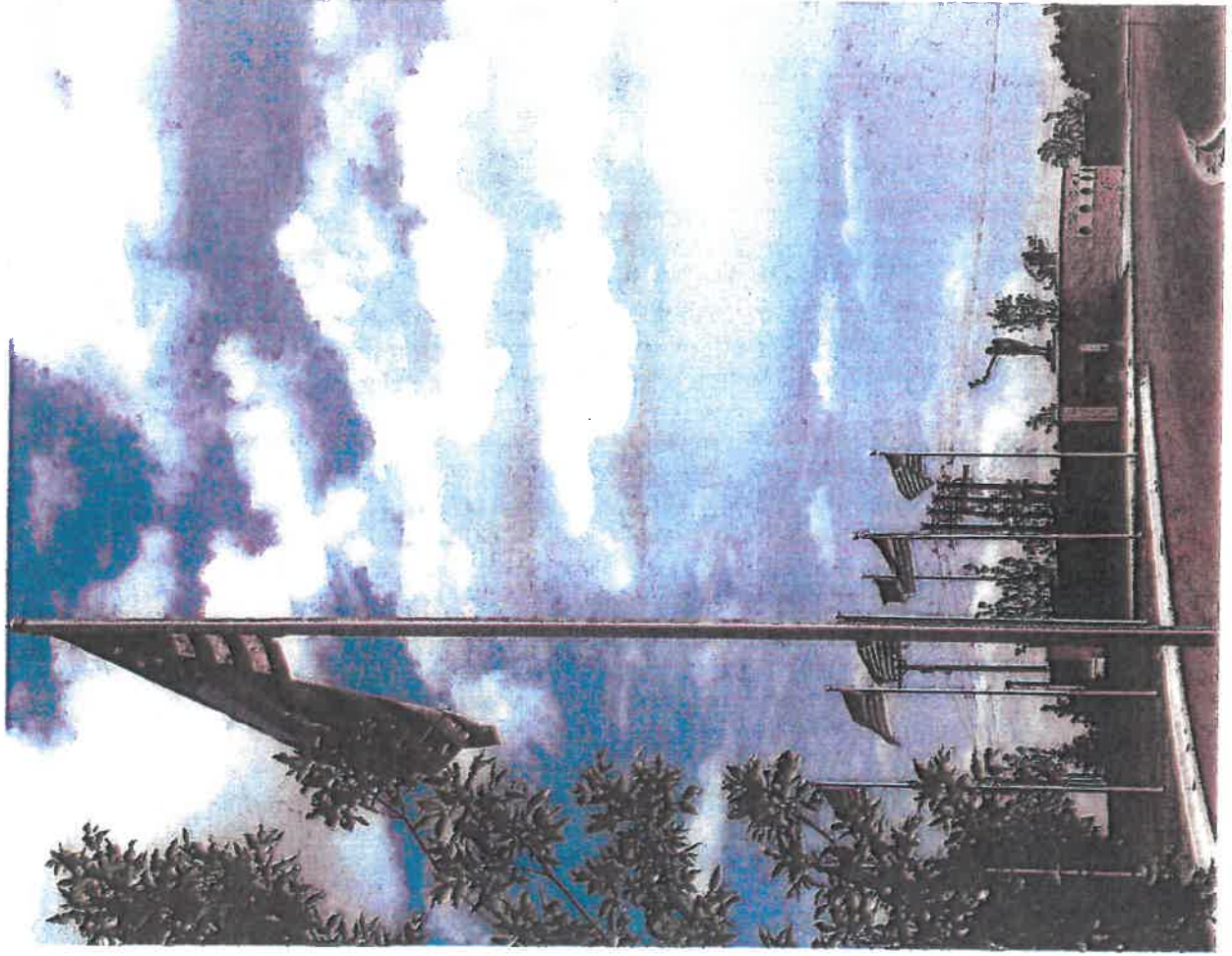
Veterans Day was originally incorporated by President Wilson as Armistice Day in 1919 in recognition of the sacrifices made by Americans in World War I. Other countries today still recognize November 11th as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in honor of the Armistice treaty which ended WWI. It was in 1938 that Armistice Day was enacted as an official American holiday, but eventually after WWII, citizens felt that the veterans of all wars should be recognized. So in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Congress changed the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1978 the observance of Veterans Day was returned to November 11th by popular sentiment. We honor it at the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month in remembrance of the original Armistice Day of World War I in 1918 when hostilities came to an end between Germany and the allied powers. It was followed by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.



**MONTANA VETERANS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION** established and maintains this memorial to honor and recognize all veterans. A Veteran is defined as any man or woman of any age who has served in any branch of the military of the United States of America in any capacity, and to honor men and women living and deceased equally. Memorial tiles are available at \$250. Contact the MVMA with your request at:

Montana Veterans Memorial Committee, Inc., PO Box 3524,  
Great Falls, Montana 59403-3524 - (406) 454-9070,  
[www.montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.montanaveteransmemorial.org) - Non-Profit Tax ID #0530543

## A PLACE OF HONOR



## VETERANS DAY NOV. 11, 2021



Ken Robison loves books, history and historic preservation. He is a chronicler of neglected Western history and active in historical and preservation groups in Fort Benton, Sun River and Great Falls. He was born and educated in Montana. After graduating from Great Falls High School and the University of Montana, Captain Ken Robison served thirty years in Naval Intelligence through many contingency operations and the Vietnam War. Ken is author or co-author of twelve books including *Montanans in the Great War: Open Warfare Over There*, the second and final of his books on Montanans in World War I. His newest work is *Cold War Montana* which highlights Montana's significant involvement in that struggle from the end of WWII, through the Korean and Vietnam Wars and ending with the collapse of the Soviet Union.



A World War I Remembrance



Since the centennial of the WWI Armistice in 2018, Bells of Peace have been tolled at 11 a.m. on Veterans Day across the USA in remembrance of all those who served in WWI. Bells of Peace also commemorates the WWI Armistice of November 11, 1918 when the guns fell silent and when bells tolled on the Western Front after four years of brutal combat. They are tolled 21 times, five second apart in honor of all who have served. Especially this year, it is in honor of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which was dedicated right after World War I on Armistice Day, 11 November 1921.



Please visit [www.ArlingtonCemetery.mil](http://www.ArlingtonCemetery.mil) to learn more about this hallowed place, its history, and how the U.S. Army's third Infantry Regiment became Tomb Guardians.



**VETERANS DAY CEREMONY**  
**11:00 a.m. - November 11, 2021**  
**Montana Veterans Memorial**  
**Great Falls, Montana**  
*As per public health guidance, the ceremony is limited to participants only and will be broadcast live to a virtual audience thru Facebook Live and will be posted on the Memorial's website. (The media is welcome to cover the event.)*



- Welcome**..... Star Darko, VicePresident, Montana Veterans Memorial Assoc. (MVMA)
- Bell of Peace Remembrance**..... MVMA volunteers, JROTC Cadets
- Master of Ceremonies**..... Art Taft, Veteran, US Navy
- Presentation of the Colors** ..... Malmstrom AFB Honor Guard
- Invocation**..... Chaplain Sarah Bendele, Capt., USAF, MAFB
- National Anthem**..... Retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Dana Darko
- Pledge of Allegiance**..... Air Force Junior ROTC Cadets, Great Falls High School
- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 100th Anniversary**..... Ken Robison, Captain (Ret) USN
- 'Bagpipe Salute'**..... Jesse Callender, Great Falls Shrine Pipe Band
- Reflections of the Montana Veterans Memorial**..... Bill Bronson, MVMA Board Member
- God Bless America**..... Members of the Great Falls Symphony Choir
- Benediction**..... Father Oliver Doyle, President, Univ. of Providence
- Taps**..... Alex Smith, Great Falls High School





A visitor looks at names on the Montana Veterans Memorial, where Veterans Day ceremonies will take place starting at 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 11. TRIBUNE PHOTO/RION SANDERS

# Veterans Day ceremony to be held at MVM

**Eric Peterson**  
MVMA secretary

A Veterans Day ceremony will be held at the Montana Veterans Memorial at 11 a.m. Thursday, November 11, 2021.

Former television personality and United States Navy veteran Art Taft will serve as the master of ceremonies during the event.

Personnel from Malmstrom Air Force Base will participate in the memorial ceremony. Members of the 341st Missile Wing Honor Guard will present the colors and Air Force Chaplain (Capt.) Sarah Bendele will provide the invocation.

Retired Montana Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. Dana Darko will sing the "Star Spangled Banner." Chief Darko last served as the 120th Maintenance Group quality assurance chief at the 120th Fighter Wing.

Cadets from the Great Falls Public

Schools Air Force Junior ROTC program will lead the participants and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Retired United States Navy Capt. Ken Robison will speak on the observance of the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Robison is a well-known local historian and served in naval intelligence during the Vietnam War and in Cold War contingency operations.

Longtime Montana Veterans Memorial supporter and member of the Great Falls Pipe Band Jesse Callender will perform the "Bagpipe Salute." Callender has played his bagpipes for many ceremonial events held at the memorial.

Great Falls Public School Board and MVMA member Bill Bronson will speak on the history of the Montana Veterans Memorial and the volunteers who helped make an idea to build the premiere Montana memorial to military

veterans both living and deceased a reality. "God Bless America" will be performed by members of the Great Falls Symphonic Choir.

The benediction will be offered by the University of Providence President Father Oliver Doyle. To conclude the ceremony a student from Great Falls High School will sound "Taps" on the trumpet. For those unable to attend the ceremony in person, the event will be broadcast via Facebook Live on the Montana Veterans Memorial Facebook page beginning at 11 a.m.

The Montana Veterans Memorial is located at 1009 25th Street North in Great Falls. -more- VETERANS 3-3-3 For more information on the Montana Veterans Memorial Veterans Day ceremony, please contact Richard Liebert at 736-5791 or email: wwranch@3rivers.net.

**MISSION, Kan.** — School board candidates opposing mask mandates and lessons about racism in U.S. history won in red states and some politically divided districts but often came up short in their bids to shape policy for school districts.

The mixed results complicate the picture for Republicans who are increasingly looking to the education fight as a galvanizing issue that could help them sway voters. They point to the upset in Virginia by Republican Glenn Youngkin, who won his race for governor Tuesday in the liberal-leaning state after making education grievances a key part of his campaign. Some conservative political action groups said they racked up wins in the school board races where they funneled money.

But across the country, culture and identity fights were less decisive. The political tracking website Ballotpedia identified 96 school districts in more than a dozen states where race education and masking were part of the debate. It found that at least one anti-critical race theory or anti-mask candidate prevailed in 35 of the 86 districts in which it has determined winners, or 40%.

"Where they won, they won in really high numbers," said Doug Kronaizi, a staff writer for Ballotpedia, noting that candidates who won on the issue tended to be concentrated in the same districts. "But overall nationwide they didn't win that much."

In Connecticut, five candidates running in opposition to critical race theory lost the board of education race in the Guilford school system, an overwhelmingly white New Haven suburb of 22,000 where a petition calling for the superintendent's removal circulated after the district ditched its Indians mascot and doubled down on efforts to address social justice and racism.

"I think that there continues to be a national discussion where the term critical race theory is used inaccurately if not insincerely to attack work that is being done in schools, and that was successful in a lot of races," said Superintendent Paul Freeman, who said the district doesn't teach critical race theory.

Technically, it is an academic framework that centers on the idea that racism is systemic in the nation's institutions and that they function to maintain the dominance of white people. But in recent months, it has become a catch-all political buzzword for any teaching in schools about race and American history.



Mask mandates and lessons about racism in U.S. history were key culture war issues  
WIMLEY/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/AP FILE

"We do not shame or blame the white children in Guilford when we talk about the issues of race or racism in our classrooms, whether historic or contemporary," Freeman said.

Incumbent school board members in Mequon, Wisconsin, a wealthy, Republican-leaning suburb north of Milwaukee, won decisively after a group of parents led a recall effort based largely on their opposition to the district's hiring of a diversity consultant. All four incumbents were reelected by more than 1,000 votes after a summer-long petition drive that drew the attention of local Republicans.

In Springboro, Ohio, outside Dayton, Frank Catrine, a local Republican activist who is opposed to critical race theory, finished fifth out of eight candidates in a school board race in which all incumbents were reelected. He has argued that diversity and inclusion efforts exclude white students and parents.

"If you want true diversity, you're open to everybody," Catrine said. "But if they are only focused on Black people and the LGBTQ community, not everybody is welcome."

In Washington state, school board candidate Riley Smith said that while knocking on doors in his Democratic-leaning district in Spokane this fall, he encountered very few people interested in discussing race in education.

"This whole critical race theory, anti-masking, that was dominating the national narrative wasn't really on people's minds," said Riley, who beat a vocal opponent of the educational framework for the open seat.

Yael Levin, who leads the Virginia chapter of No Left Turn in Education, a group opposed to teaching critical race theory, said some losses were to be expected given the newness of the movement, which she said grew from the pandemic, when remote learning made parents more aware of what their children were being taught. The organization has ballooned to 78 chapters in more than 25 states since it was founded last year.

"This is a very new movement of parents. And it's a direct result of COVID. So it makes sense that we succeeded in some places and didn't in others," Levin said, "but we're going to keep our movement alive because the attack on our children is not stopping anytime soon."

In conservative Wichita, Kansas, Ben Blankley was among three candidates voted out of office and replaced by a slate of anti-critical race theory candidates who have promised changes in COVID-19 mitigation efforts in the district.

"I kind of figured this would be the end result," said Blankley, a 38-year-old aerospace engineer with a first-grader

## Remembrance of America's Wars and the Fallen

*The Memorial Bell will be tolled to recognize each of America's major military conflicts and their Fallen, and remember those who served in numerous expeditions not listed and made the greatest sacrifice to defend our Liberties:*

**American Revolution (1775-1783)**

**War of 1812 (1812-1815)**

**Indian Wars (approx. 1817-1898)**

**Mexican-American War (1846-1848)**

**Civil War (1861-1865)**

**Spanish-American War (1898)**

**Philippine Insurrection and Moro Rebellion (1899-1913)  
Mexican Punitive Expedition (1916-1917)**

**World War I (1917-1918)**

**World War II (1941-1945)**

**Korean War (1950-1953)**

**Vietnam War (1964-1975)**

**Lebanon, Grenada and Panama (1982-1989)**

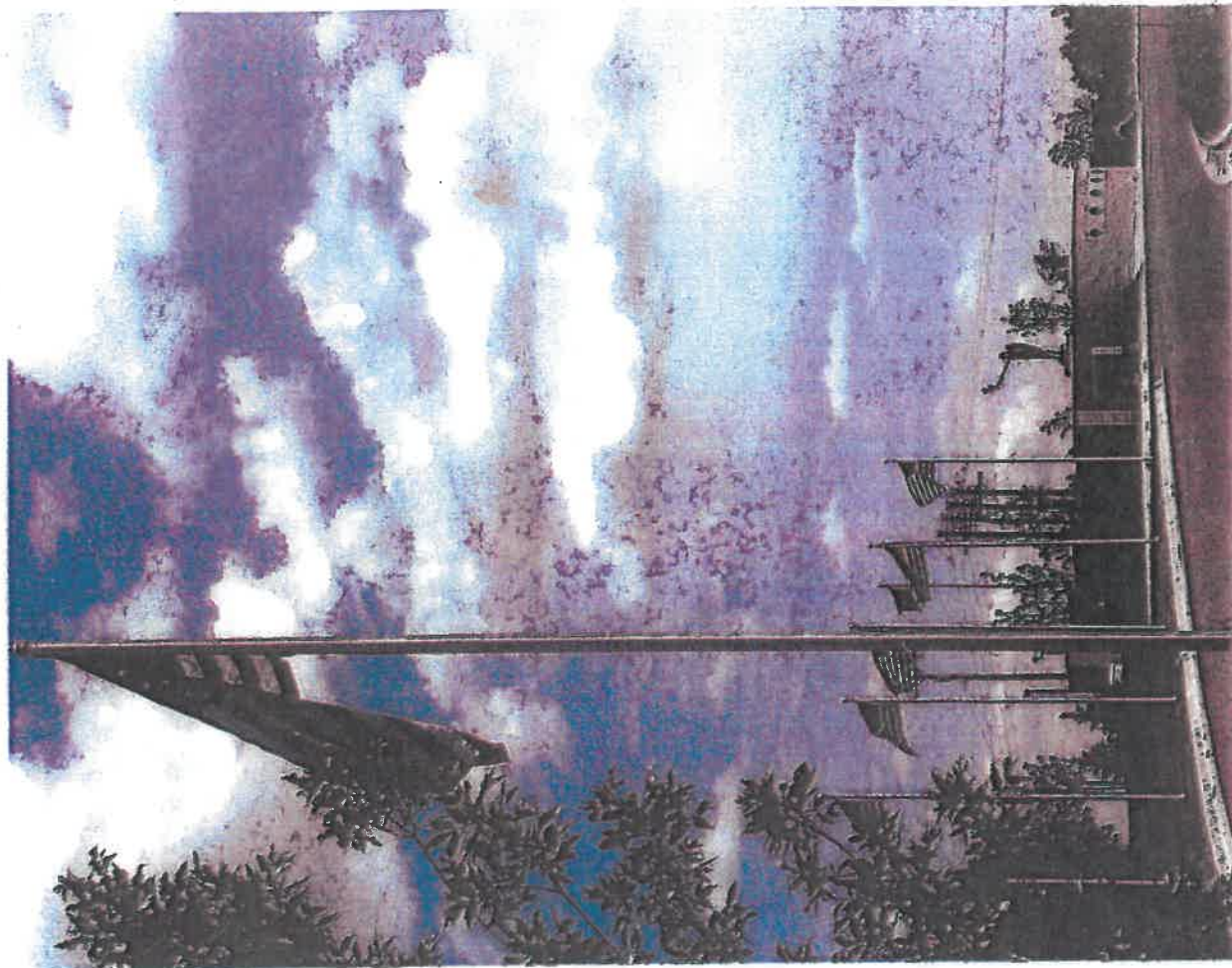
**Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991)**

**Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo Campaigns (1992-1999)**

**War in Iraq (2003-2011)**

**War in Afghanistan (2001-2021)**

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Congress



# A PLACE OF HONOR

# MEMORIAL DAY 2022



**BISHOP MARCUS L. COLLINS** serves as the Senior Pastor at the Alexander Temple Church of God in Christ in Great Falls, MT. He began his ministry in 2001 under the direction of Bishop Phillip H. Porter. Bishop Designee Collins also served as Administrative Assistant for the Montana Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Northern District since 2007. That position enabled Bishop Collins to create innovative relationships with the Blackfeet and Crow Tribes in regards to relationships with the Church of God in Christ. He currently serves on the Great Falls Chamber's Executive Board of Directors and also as a Use of Force analyst for the Cascade County Sheriff's Department. Bishop Collins has assisted Mayor Bob Kelly to create and moderate the Great Falls Race Equity program which has become a model template for improving race relations throughout Great Falls and its surrounding areas.

Bishop Collins is a U.S. Air Force veteran and was stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in 1992 after serving in England for two years. He is a graduate of Liberty University with an emphasis in Religious Studies. Marcus and his wife Antoinette have been married 30 years and have three wonderful children: Isaiah, Elijah, and Hannah. In addition, they have two baby huskies Trinity and Quadro. Bishop Collins truly loves the City of Great Falls and believes in his heart the secret to true success is faith, family and ministry.

**IN MEMORIAM CHIEF EARL OLD PERSON** passed away on 13 October 2021 at the age of 92. He was the youngest ever elected to the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council in 1954 and ten years later was elected chairman for 16 terms until 2008, making him the longest serving tribal leader in U.S. history. In 1978 he was appointed Honorary Lifetime Chief of the Blackfeet Nation. Although the Chief was not a veteran himself, his spiritual and moral leadership represented the warrior values reflected with honor in the Blackfeet veterans and an inspiration to all veterans in Indian Country who served.

His leadership was valued in numerous national and international organizations from the USDA to the National Council of Indian opportunities. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Montana and he also played on the Browning Basketball Team in 1963 and competed for the state championship title. The Montana Veterans Memorial was honored twice by Chief Old Person when he shared his wisdom as a speaker at the Memorial Day ceremonies in 2015 and in 2021.

**PROFESSOR MARVIN WEATHERWAX Sr.** teaches Blackfeet language and culture studies at the Blackfeet Community College in Browning, Mont. He is a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran and the generations of the Weatherwax family have served our nation in WWII, Korea, Vietnam and are currently serving at home and abroad.

Memorial Day, May 30, 2022, 2 p.m.  
Montana Veterans Memorial, Great Falls, MT

Welcome.....President Star Darko, Montana Veterans Memorial Assoc.

Master of Ceremonies..... United States Navy Veteran Art Tait

Presentation of the Colors..... Malmstrom AFB Honor Guard

Invocation..... Chaplain (Capt.) Christopher Pitts, USAF, MAFB

National Anthem..... The Vocal Patriots

Pledge of Allegiance..... Boy Scouts of America

Keynote Speaker..... Bishop Marcus Collins, The Church of God in Christ

"Bagpipe Salute"..... Jesse Callender, Great Falls Shrine Pipe Band

In Memoriam of Chief Old Person..... Martin Weatherwax,  
Blackfeet Veterans Honor Guard

Armed Forces Medley..... Great Falls Municipal Band

Remembrance of America's Wars and the Fallen..... U.S. Senate Reps.,  
and Bell Detail

'God Bless America'..... The Vocal Patriots

Benediction..... Chaplain (Capt.) Christopher Pitts, USAF, MAFB

Taps..... Jackson Bautista, Great Falls High School Band

The Montana Veterans Memorial Association established and maintains this memorial to honor and recognize all veterans. A Veteran is defined as any man or woman of any age who has served in any branch of the military of the United States of America in any capacity, and to honor men and women living and deceased equally. Memorial ties are available for \$250. Contact the MVMA with your request at:

Montana Veterans Memorial Association • PO Box 3524 • Great Falls, MT 59403-3524  
Phone (406) 454-9070 • www.montanaveteransmemorial.org  
Non-Profit Tax ID #0530543

(The ceremony will be recorded to Facebook, website and KGPR local public radio)



# Veterans group hosts Memorial Day ceremony



Montana Veterans Memorial President Starnell Darko receives a blanket from a member of the Blackfeet Nation during the Memorial Day ceremony held at the Montana Veterans Memorial on Monday.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MVMA SECRETARY ERIC PETERSON

## Montana Veterans Memorial Association hosts Memorial Day ceremony

Nicole Girton  
Great Falls Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

On an overcast and chilly May afternoon, veterans and community members gathered in Great Falls to pay tribute to those who gave their lives in the line of duty.

"The eight bells at the beginning of today's ceremony were rung not only as a U.S. Navy warrior tradition to honor a fallen sailor, but to set the tone for all the branches that we have come to honor here," said emcee and United States Navy veteran and former television personality Art Taft.

The keynote speaker, Bishop Marcus Collins, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, spoke to the history of the holiday, which originated after the civil war as "Declaration Day." In 1868, during the first national commemoration, 5,000 participants decorated the graves of 20,000 soldiers, both Union and Confederate, following what was then the deadliest war in U.S. history.

"This ceremony, what it does unifies us as Americans, whether we are Democrats, whether we are Republicans, whether we are male, whether we are female, whether we are Catholic, or Protestant, we stand as recipients of those who went before us as heroes and have given their lives for this country," Collins said.

Professor Marvin Weatherwax, Sr. spoke in remembrance of Chief Earl Old Person, the longest-serving elected tribal official in America who died in Oct. of 2021 and all Blackfeet military veterans who have served. Weatherwax, Sr. teaches Blackfeet language and culture studies at Blackfeet Community College and is a U.S. Army veteran.

"I have a list of the things that Earl did and his accomplishments throughout his life, but the list I had would not fit in the back of my truck, so I brought a



Members of the Boy Scouts of America lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance during the Memorial Day ceremony.

smaller one," Weatherwax Sr. said.

At the age of 25, in 1954, Old Person was elected to his first term as a tribal council member. Old Person became chairman 10 years later and he held the position for 34 years. In the 1970s, Old Person served as president of the National Congress of American Indians, where he served on a committee that founded the nation's first tribally owned bank. In 1978, Old Person gained perhaps his proudest title when he became chief of the Blackfeet Nation.

Old Person was a leading advocate for access to higher education. Though he never attended college himself, Old Person holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Montana. In 1993, Old Person presented the first State of the Indian Nation Address before the Montana State Legislature in Helena.

Weatherwax sang in honor of Old Person and closed with a phrase he said Old Person always said, "People are the most important, when they come to you, you've got to acknowledge them. We're never too important."

"Although the chief was not a veter-

an himself, his spiritual and moral leadership represented the warrior values reflected with honor in the Blackfeet veterans and an inspiration to all veterans of Indian country who served," Taft said in his introduction.

Spokespeople from the offices of both of Montana's U.S. Senators took turns saying each of America's wars which was followed by the ringing of a bell.

Montana Lt. Gov. Kristen Juras was in attendance, sitting front row as her sons participated in the ceremony as members of the Vocal Patriots. She said she was there to honor her fallen uncle Capt. William Wylie Galt, a medal of honor recipient who died in World War II.

City Commissioner Joe McKenney and County Commissioner James Larson, both U.S. Navy veterans, attended the ceremonies Monday afternoon.

The Vocal Patriots sang both "God Bless America" and the National Anthem. The Great Falls Municipal Band played the Armed Forces Medley and

See CEREMONY, Page 7A

# Ceremony

Continued from Page 5A

Jesse Callender of the Great Falls Shrine Pipe Band played "Bagpipe Salute."

Both the invocation and the benediction prayers were led by Malmstrom Air Force Base Chaplain Capt. Christopher Pitts, with Malmstrom Honor Guard conducting the Presentation of the Colors.

The Montana Veterans Memorial will be closed for construction starting June 1 to replace over 4,000 square feet of concrete that had been shifting due to an unstable base, according to a media release Monday.

Repairs are being overseen by TD&H engineering, Missouri River Trucking and Excavating, Liberty Electric and architect Gene Davidson.

Montana Veterans Memorial Association President Starnell Darko said that people interested in viewing the memorial during construction can do



Bishop Marcus Collins of The Church of God in Christ served as the keynote speaker during the Memorial Day ceremony held at the Montana Veterans Memorial on Monday.

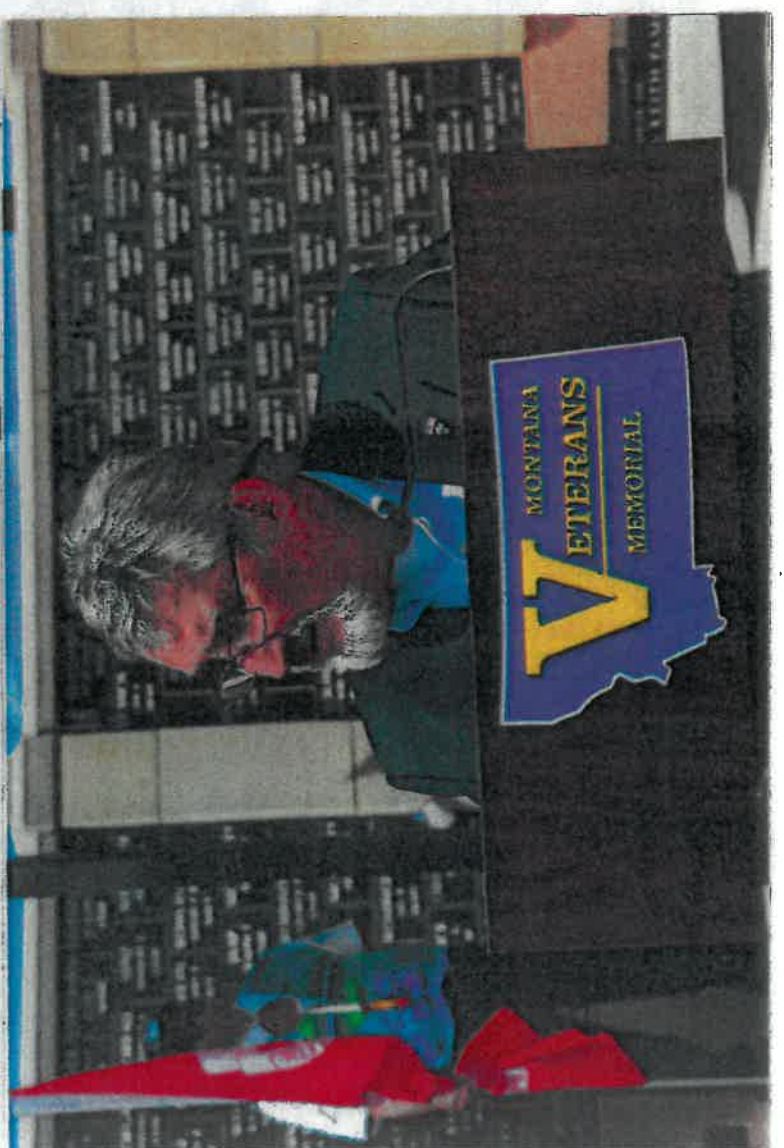
PROVIDED BY MVMA SECRETARY ERIC PETERSON

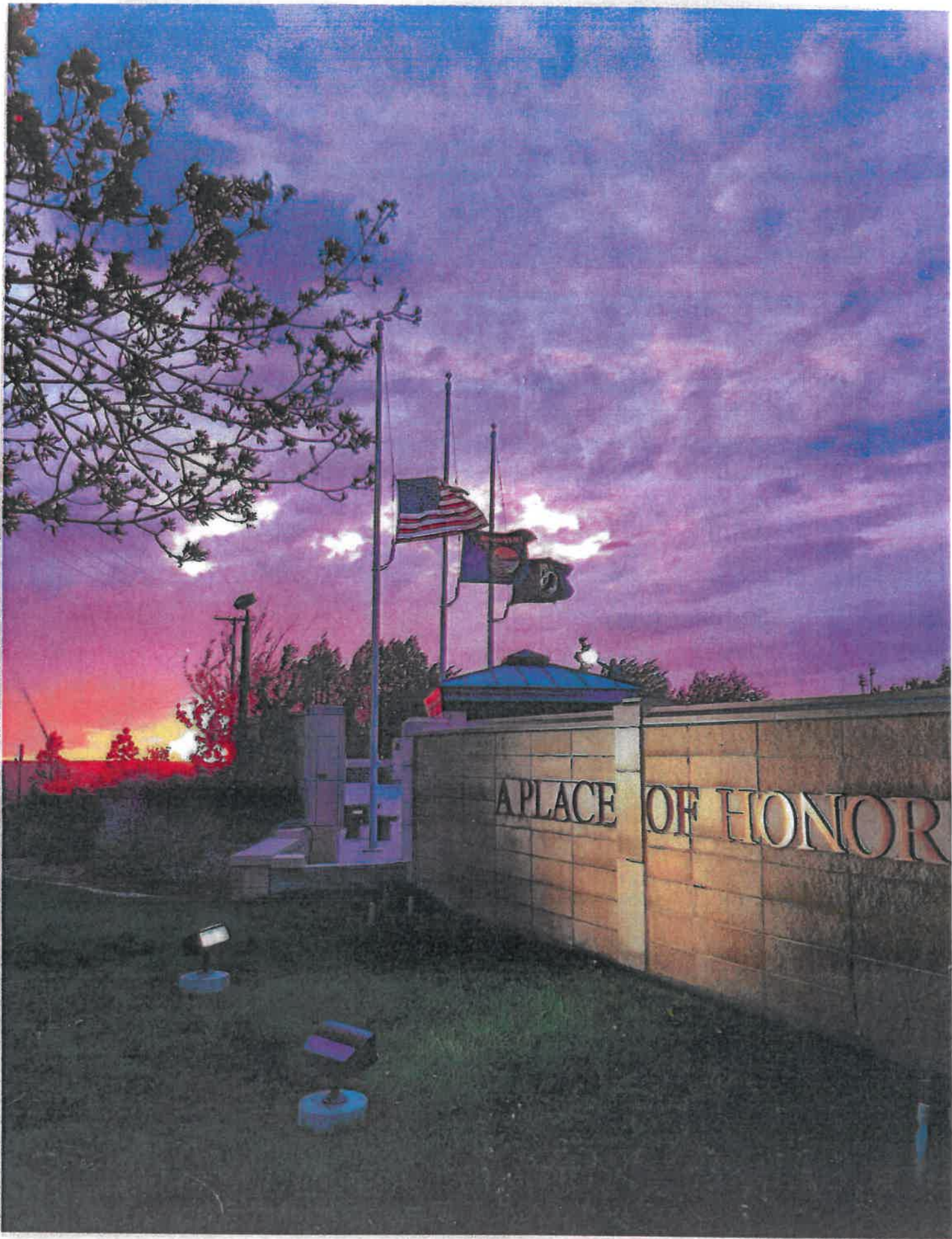
so online at <https://montanaveteransmemorial.org/> and said that updates will be posted to the group's Facebook page. The association is welcoming donations to cover construction costs.

The next planned ceremony held at the Montana Veterans Memorial will be on Veterans Day on Nov. 11, 2022.













**MONTANA VETERANS  
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE, Inc.**

P.O. BOX 3524 • GREAT FALLS, MT 59403-3524  
406-454-9070

[www.Montanaveteransmemorial.org](http://www.Montanaveteransmemorial.org)



Michael J Winters  
Montana Veterans Memorial  
PO Box 3524  
Great Falls, MT 59403  
406 799-0179

January 14, 2014

Governor Bullock, et al  
Montana Legislature  
Helena, Montana

Sirs,

Please consider our request to name and designate Montana Veterans Memorial located in Great Falls, Montana as an official Montana State Memorial. We invite you and all interested Legislators to visit and tour this outstanding and unique Memorial dedicated to honoring all Veterans. Thank you for your consideration. We may be contacted by email at [info@montanaveteransmemorial.org](mailto:info@montanaveteransmemorial.org) or by phone at 406 799-0179.

Sincerely,

Michael J Winters

May 30, 2013

To: Montana State Legislators

Ref: Montana State recognition of the Great Falls Veterans Memorial.

As a retired United States Army veteran of 23 years ( May 1959 to Jan 1982) I whole heartedly support the ongoing efforts to have Great Falls Veteran's Memorial recognized by the State's legislative body.

This memorial recognizes all branches of the United States Military ( I have a tile placed there). In addition to our service members, it also recognizes other individuals, under special circumstances, to be so honored.

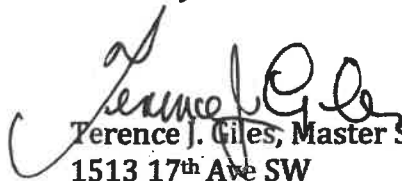
This Memorial is of the highest caliber in respect to design, material used, layout and landscaping. It is impeccably maintained and one feels honored to walk on these grounds. It truly is a State treasure.

Recognition of this site would first and foremost honor the veterans named there. Secondly, it would place this Memorial on the Montana State maps providing information about the site and how to reach it's destination. Both positive exposure for Montana

It would benefit the community with additional visitors coming to Montana and to Great Falls specifically to experience this Memorial.

Positive consideration to this request would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Terence J. Giles, Master Sergeant (E8), retired  
1513 17<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
Great Falls, MT 59404  
406/761-0410 h  
406/403-6812 c.



GREAT FALLS MT TOURISM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

---

**Michael J. Winters**  
**Montana Veterans Memorial**  
**P.O. Box 3524**  
**Great Falls, MT 59403**

**July 19, 2013**

**Dear Mr. Winters,**

**As a member of the tourism industry I am in support of the Montana Veterans Memorial located at River Road North and 26<sup>th</sup> Street in Great Falls, Montana becoming a Montana State Monument.**

**This designation would only enhance the number of visitors that are drawn to the majestic and peaceful setting memorializing our honored Montana military veterans.**

**Great Falls saw over 423,000 visitors that spent one night in Great Falls in 2012. Those numbers would only increase if this was honored as a Montana State Monument designation.**

**In support,**

**Karen S. Venetz**  
**Administrative & Marketing Director**

Doug James  
Doug.James@moultonbellingham.com  
406-238-1565

July 15, 2013

RECEIVED

JUL 16 2013

CITY CLERK

- GERALD B. MURPHY
- W. A. FORSYTHE
- DOUG JAMES
- THOMAS E. SMITH
- JOHN T. JONES
- DUNCAN A. PEETE
- GERRY P. FAGAN
- MICHELE L. BRAUKMANN
- MICHAEL E. BEGLEY\*
- JEFF G. SORENSON
- KATHRYN J. MAEHL
- EMILY JONES \*\*\*
- CHRISTOPHER T. SWEENEY\*,\*\*
- ROSS W. McLINDEN \*\*
- BRANDON JT HOSKINS
- BRIAN O. MARTY
- AFTON E. BALL
- GEORGE T. KIMMET \*,\*\*\*\*
- ADAM J. TUNNING \*
- PAUL J. CHAON

Mayor Mike Winters  
City of Great Falls  
P.O. Box 5021  
Great Falls, MT 59403-5021

Re: *Montana Veterans Memorial*

Dear Mayor Winters:

I am writing to you in order to express my support for making the Montana Veterans Memorial a state monument.


The Montana Veterans Memorial is a unique and inspirational Memorial. It is worthy of state designation.

The Montana Veterans Memorial was beautifully designed and landscaped. Touring the memorial is an emotional experience.

It is appropriate and necessary for us to both honor and remember our veterans. The Montana Veterans Memorial is a dignified monument to all of our veterans. I encourage our state leaders to give it designation as a state memorial.

Sincerely,

MOULTON BELLINGHAM PC

By   
DOUG JAMES

DJ:ilm

4835-7119-2340, v. 1

Brent R. Cromley  
Of Counsel

K. Kent Koolen  
Of Counsel

FREDRIC D. MOULTON  
(1912-1989)

W.S. MATHER  
(1922-1998)

WM. H. BELLINGHAM  
(1920-2002)

BERNARD E. LONGO  
(1918-2011)

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE IN  
WYOMING\*  
NORTH DAKOTA\*\*  
ARIZONA\*\*\*  
NEW YORK\*\*\*\*



## CASCADE COUNTY

**Board of County Commissioners**  
325 2nd Avenue North  
Great Falls, MT 59401  
Tel. 406.454.6810  
Fax 406.454.6945  
commission@cascadecountymt.gov  
www.cascadecountymt.gov

June 10, 2013

TO: Mayor Michael Winters  
2609 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Great Falls, MT 59404-1361

RE: Montana Veterans Memorial

Dear Honorable Mayor Winters,

The Montana Veterans Memorial has become a statewide symbol of honor to those living and deceased veterans from all branches of the United States military. Great Falls and Cascade County are privileged to have become the site for this beautiful and powerful monument.

The Board of County Commissioners supports Montana Veterans Memorial, Inc. in their endeavor to seek state monument status for this special commemorative site. The men and women who serve to protect and keep our nation safe deserve recognition for their willingness to place themselves in harm's way so that Americans may live without fear. This monument pays tribute to their sacrifices.

We wish you well with your efforts to seek statewide monument status.

Sincerely,

JOE BRIGGS  
Chairman  
Cascade County Commission

BILL SALINA  
Commissioner

JANE WEBER  
Commissioner



**GREAT FALLS, MONTANA**  
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**GREAT FALLS DETACHMENT 688**

**May 19, 2013**

**Mr. Michael Winters**  
**Founder, MT Veterans Memorial**  
**2609 6th St., NW**  
**Great Falls, MT 59404**

Dear Mike,

As you know, the Great Falls Marine Corps League Detachment 688 has a large role in managing the day to day activities at the Memorial. As Keepers of the Flags, Detachment members care for the flags and the hardware needed to fly them. They also fly the flags at 1/2 staff on designated days and fly the 11 flags along Memorial Drive on designated days. As Keepers of the Kiosk, select members unlock the Kiosk daily from May 1 to Veterans Day in November and lock it in the evening. Members also look after the grounds by clearing debris blown in by winds and water flowers during the growing season. While this recitation states the obvious to you, it is intended to convey the fact that the Great Falls Marine Corps League Detachment 688 has a large commitment to the Memorial. That commitment is also symbolized by the fact that over 60 Detachment members, past and present, have had tiles installed at the Memorial.

With that said, the members have requested me to urge you to take necessary steps to expand the focus of the Memorial from a primarily Great Falls perspective to a Montana-wide perspective. While the Great Falls perspective has served the Memorial well from its humble beginnings, the huge growth has been such that a much wider perspective would better reflect its current status. Designating the Memorial as "MONTANA'S VETERANS MEMORIAL" would achieve that purpose. To that end, we would urge you to petition the State Government to officially designate our veterans memorial as MONTANA'S VETERANS MEMORIAL

Semper Fi,

Bill "Gunny" Evans  
Commandant

Montana House of Representatives



**BILL WILSON**  
Representative  
22nd District

Committees:  
Ethics (Chairman)  
Judiciary

(406) 868-2384

email:

 bw1305@bresnan.net

11-10-06

bw1305@bresnan.net

Congratulations on your re election , we know when we have a good representative in Helena !

As per our conversation at Perkins last week or so . Please take up the cause of the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls , for proper informational and directional signage on the highway system in and around Great Falls .

I would appear before the house committee to present all pertinent data regarding our request , should that be necessary .

Please keep me informed on progress

Thank you  
Michael Winters  
2609 6 st NW  
Great Falls 59404

406-452-5679

sent & rec. By Bill <sup>wilson</sup> wilson  
11-10-06  
will take care of!

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 3 [bw1305@bresnan.net](mailto:bw1305@bresnan.net)



**Bill Drafting Request**

Montana Legislative Services Division  
Room 110 - State Capitol  
Helena MT 59620-1706  
(406) 444-3064  
FAX: (406) 444-3036  
e-mail: gpetesch@mt.gov

For Legislative Services Division Use Only:

Date of Request 11-16-06

Requester Bill Wilson  
(Please Print)

**Description of Request**  
(Please be specific)

Legislation To  
Provide For Roadway  
Signage to Direct Public  
To Veterans Memorial  
Great Falls Montana.

Place request on HOLD

Authority to contact anyone felt necessary

YES  NO

Contact Person(s):

Name(s) Mike Winters

Phone(s) (406) 454-9070

Bill Wilson  
Requesting Legislator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Requesting Agency

