

On May 30, 1868, a crowd of 5,000 gathered at Arlington National Cemetery for the first Decoration Day, which was to become Memorial Day.

The crowd listened to an address by an Ohio congressman who had also served as a major general in the Civil War.

James A. Garfield set a standard by explaining what Decoration Day is all about and why it should be commemorated.

It began as such:

I am oppressed with a sense of the impropriety of uttering words on this occasion. If silence is ever golden, it must be here beside the graves of fifteen thousand men, whose lives were more significant than speech, and whose death was a poem, the music of which can never be sung. With words we make promises, plight faith, praise virtue. Promises may not be kept; plighted faith may be broken; and vaunted virtue be only the cunning mask of vice. We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue. For the noblest man that lives, there still remains a conflict. He must still withstand the assaults of time and fortune, must still be assailed with temptations, before which lofty natures have fallen; but with these the conflict ended, the victory was won, when death stamped on them the great seal of heroic character, and closed a record which years can never blot...

Thank you for participating in our Memorial Day ceremony.



**CITY OF
MENTOR**

2023 Memorial Day Ceremony

Mentor Municipal Cemetery

May 29, 2023 9:45 AM

Mentor City Council

Matthew E. Donovan, Ward 2 Councilperson, President of Council

Scott J. Marn, At-Large Councilperson, Vice-President of Council

Sean Blake, Ward 1 Councilperson

Mark T. Freeman, Ward 3 Councilperson

John A. Krueger, Ward 4 Councilperson

Ray Kirchner, At-Large Councilperson

Janet A. Dowling, At-Large Councilperson

Kenneth J. Filipiak, City Manager

Kenneth Kaminski, Director, Parks, Recreation
and Public Facilities

God Bless America

God Bless America,

Land that I love,

Stand beside her, and guide her,

Thru the night with the light from above.

From the mountains, to the prairie,

To the oceans, white with foam,

God Bless America,

My home, sweet home.

Memorial Day Program

Welcome Kenneth J. Filipiak, City Manager

Invocation AMVETS Post #40 Chaplain Bill Gutwald

Raising of the Flag VFW Post 9295

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions and Recognition of Guests

Matthew E. Donovan, President of Council

Introduction of Speaker

Matthew E. Donovan, President of Council

Memorial Day Address

Frank LaRose, Ohio Secretary of State

Presentation of Wreaths

Benediction AMVETS Post #40 Chaplain Bill Gutwald

Salute to the Dead

Playing of Taps

Dedication of Cemetery Memorial Promenade to follow at 10:30

