



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020
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MEDIA ADVISORY: 2020 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE CANCELLED

CANTON, OHIO – The City of Canton, in conjunction with The Greater Canton Veterans Council, which is the organizing sponsor, is today announcing the cancellation of our traditional Memorial Day parade, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The parade was scheduled for Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. This decision is made out of health concerns for our veterans and residents, and is consistent with public health concerns over holding large attendance events.

Mayor Bernabei stated, “We are of course disappointed. This is a traditional first week of summer event which memorializes the many Americans who have given their lives in defense of our country. We ask all to remember their sacrifice on Memorial Day.”

Below are other formal rituals you can participate in to honor our fallen military:

- The American flag should be hung at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day, then raised to the top of the staff.
- All Americans are encouraged to pause for a National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time.
- Americans may visit cemeteries and memorials that are open to the public. Please remember to continue to practice personal safety.
- Wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that began with a World War I poem titled “In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae (see below).

The City of Canton will display over 1,100 National, State and City flags throughout the city on decorative light poles to honor the fallen and our military. We hope this will bring a sense of pride to our community.

We thank the Greater Canton Veterans Council for their dedication to our local Veterans and hope we will be able to gather once again for Memorial Day in 2021.

Thomas M. Bernabei, Mayor

Bill Theiss, President, The Greater Canton Veterans Council

Bob Harper, Secretary, The Greater Canton Veterans Council



In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*