

BEDFORD'S 2019 MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES TO TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY, MAY 27

American Legion/V.F.W. Memorial Ceremonies:

8:30 AM-Assemble at the American Legion Post. Veterans-Dignitaries and Selectmen-R.O.T.C. Firing Squad. Bedford HS Band Members to sound TAPS, observe Legion Memorials. American Legion Chaplain will offer prayer, memorial wreath ceremony with scouts assisting, followed by Firing Squad Volleys and playing of TAPS.

8:45 AM-Walk to Shawsheen Cemetery. Bobbie Ennis greets everyone. Prayer is offered. Brief statements by American Legion Post Commander Jon O'Connor and VFW Commander David Spence. Don Corey of the Bedford Historical Society to give brief talk about Shawsheen Cemetery and Bedford's Civil War soldiers. Firing Squad Volleys are followed by TAPS to close ceremony. Walk to Shawsheen River. VSO Bill Linnehan will begin ceremony to honor Navy Veterans. Navy veteran and American Legion member Art Smith will offer prayer. Flowers tossed into Shawsheen River followed by Volleys and TAPS. Walk back to Legion and drive to Mudge Way.

10:00 AM Old Burying Ground: Minutemen Company Capt. Jim McGinn to introduce Lori Eggert of the Bedford Historical Society who will talk briefly about the Old Burying Ground. Captain McGinn will read Roll Call of all Revolutionary War Veterans buried there. Terrence L. Parker will give a brief history about the ex-slaves buried there. Placing of wreath. Minuteman to play "Amazing Grace." Musket shots by Minutemen, followed by TAPS by BHS Band members to close ceremony.

10:30 AM Assemble for PARADE at Mudge Way.

10:45 -10:55 AM Bedford High School: Fallen Veterans Memorial Tribute. Brief remarks followed by placing of roses on memorials by BHS ROTC cadets. Playing of TAPS to close ceremony.

11:00 AM Parade Step off time. (Note: In the event of heavy rains, Parade and outdoor ceremonies will be canceled and the Veterans Memorial Park ceremonies will be held in the Bedford High School Auditorium starting approx. 11 AM).

LINE OF MARCH: Police Escourt - Bedford Police & Firefighter Honor Guard - Grand Marshals Car(s) – Bedford Minutemen- Col. Ellsworth & Family Members- Hanscom Patriotic Honor Guard- R.O.T.C. Marching Unit -Veterans (Marching) – AL & VFW Auxiliaries – Patriotic Holiday Committee - Dignitaries - State and Local Officials – BHS Marching Band – Non-Walking Veterans and VA Residents (Riding on the Trim Tram) - Scouts (Girl Scouts, Brownies, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will join the parade at the WWI Memorial on the Town Common).

March to Bedford Common (WW I Memorial). Paul Purchia will introduce Lee Yeats of the Bedford Historical Society who will offer brief remarks about the WW I Memorial. A prayer will be offered, followed by Rifle Volleys, then TAPS. Parade will then continue down Great Road to Veterans Memorial Park. **Expected arrival: approx. 11:15 AM.**

11:15 AM BEDFORD VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK CEREMONIES: Greetings and opening remarks by Paul Purchia. Invocation will be given. Bedford High School Band will play "GOD BLESS AMERICA." Mike Rosenberg (Selectmen Chair) will speak, followed by Rep. Ken Gordon. Paul Purchia will introduce Col. Ellsworth who will give Keynote Address. .

Joe Piantedosi to recognize all veterans in attendance, announce the Roll Call of Bedford Veterans who have passed on during the past year, and will read the names of the thirteen Bedford men K.I.A. in WWII, Viet Nam and Iraq. AL and VFW Auxiliary Presidents will place a poppy on each plaque memorializing these men. Raising of the Flag by Grand Marshals Gerry Hartmann and Al Fay with the assistance of the Patriotic Honor Guard while the Bedford High School Band plays our National Anthem. American Legion Chaplain will offer Benediction. Volleys will then be fired followed by TAPS. This will conclude today's ceremonies. (Lunch will be served at the American Legion for all participants following park ceremonies).

Note: In case of heavy rains, outside activities will be canceled. Veterans Memorial Park ceremonies will be moved to the Bedford High School Auditorium starting at 11 AM. Contact Paul Purchia 781-275-2464 (home) / 781-789-8974 (cell) for more information. (4/10/19)