

# *York County Memorial Day*

*May 30, 2022*



## 156 Years and an Enduring National Tradition

**T**his year marks the 156th anniversary of what we know as Memorial Day. Memorial Day began in 1866 as Decoration Day. It was after the Civil War that Henry C. Welles and John B. Murray began to encourage neighbors to place flowers on the graves of their fallen sons and husbands to honor those who gave their lives in the war. On May 5, 1866, stores in Waterloo, NY, were decorated with buntings, and flags were lowered to half-staff. Veterans and members of civic organizations assembled and marched to the three village cemeteries, where prayers were offered and speeches were given. In 1867, enthusiastic support for a day of remembrance and decorating of graves was boosted by a poem written by Judge Francis M. Finch that popularized Memorial Day nationwide.

On May 19, 1966, the United States Congress officially recognized Waterloo as the birthplace of Memorial Day. This came after 100 years of campaigning by the citizens of Waterloo and New York state officials. Governor Nelson Rockefeller declared it on May 26, 1966, and the same year President Lyndon Johnson signed a proclamation making it official.

As we remember those valiant men and women from York County who gave “the last full measure of devotion,” let us also remember and honor those heroes from all parts of our nation who have made the greatest sacrifice.

<b><i>Prelude</i></b>	Fifes and Drums of York Town
<b><i>Tolling of the Bell</i></b>	York County Historical Committee
<b><i>Welcome</i></b>	Dan Seabolt, Chairman, York County Historical Committee
<b><i>Posting of Colors</i></b>	VFW Hogge-Tate Post 824 York High School NJROTC
<b><i>Invocation</i></b>	Rev. Dr. Edward Boston Capt. MC USN (Ret.)
<b><i>The National Anthem</i></b>	Terry R. Taylor, SMSgt, USAF (Ret.)
<b><i>Pledge of Allegiance</i></b>	York County Historical Committee
<b><i>Memorial Day Message</i></b>	Tim Smith, York Co. Historical Committee
<b><i>Placing of the Wreaths</i></b>	DAV Chapter 13 Moore House Society, CAR Comte de Grasse Chapter, NSDAR
<b><i>Taps</i></b>	York County Historical Committee
<b><i>Benediction</i></b>	Rev. Dr. Edward Boston Capt. MC USN (Ret.)
<b><i>Retirement of Colors</i></b>	VFW Post 824 York HS NJROTC
<b><i>Postlude</i></b>	Fifes and Drums of York Town

*The York County Historical Committee sincerely thanks the following. Reverend Dr. Edward Boston, The Fifes and Drums of York Town, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 824, York High School Naval Junior ROTC, SMSgt. Terry Taylor, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 13, Comte de Grasse Chapter United Daughters of the American Revolution, Moore House Society Children of the American Revolution, the County of York, and all of those who served.*