

Charlestown, RI
May 10, 2017

FROM: THE CHARLESTOWN MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE, INC.

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-----**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**-----

The Charlestown Memorial Day Committee is pleased to announce its planned schedule of May events honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our freedoms, culminating in the 19th Annual Charlestown Memorial Day Parade and Observances, on Sunday, May 28, 2017.

A detailed description of interactive exhibits and Memorial Day events follows. Further details will follow, as necessary.

*“Honoring those who made the
ultimate sacrifice.”*

“May -A Month of Remembrances”

May 15–June 15 - “Lest We Forget” - Prayer Journal Project Cross’ Mills Public Library

A continuing project, begun in 2010, consolidates, into a perpetual journal, the names of those military service men and women remembered in the prayers of our community during May, the month of Memorial Day. The journal and details are on display at the Library. Names may be offered for inclusion in the journal at the Library, or by mail or email to the Committee at the addresses below.

May 15–June 15 - “Charlestown Military History Project” Charlestown Town Hall, Charlestown Senior Community Center, Cross’ Mills Public Library.

“A Bombardier’s Story” features photographs taken by Army 8th Air Force bombardier Robert Balinskas in the European Theater of Operations in World War Two, 1944-1945, including action photographs over Germany. The photographs came to us in 2016, courtesy of his daughter, Charlestown resident Linda Radl, and will be on display at the Charlestown Town Hall.

Other visual military history displays will be on exhibit at the Charlestown Senior Community Center.

The *“Charlestown War Honor Rolls”* being compiled by the Committee will be on display at the Town Hall and **Cross’ Mills Public Library**. Veterans residing in Charlestown (past or

present) whose military service was during periods of armed conflict, up to and including the current Operation New Dawn in Afghanistan, are listed. Names may be offered for inclusion in the Honor Rolls at the exhibits, or by mail or email to the Committee at the addresses below.

**May 20 – June 15 “Fallen Heroes Flag Garden”
Charlestown Post Office**

From Armed Forces Day through Flag Day, the Rhode Island flags in a special memorial exhibit in front of the Charlestown Post Office represent the 28 Rhode Island service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice during operations in support of the global war on terrorism since September 11, 2001. Their photos and stories are shared in a companion exhibit inside the Post Office.

**Thursday, May 25 Memorial Day Luncheon
Charlestown Senior Community Center**

Special luncheon for all ages, at the Senior-Community Center in Ninigret Park, features picnic favorites – BBQ Baby Back Ribs, Macaroni Salad, Baked Beans, Cupcakes, Turkey on Wheat. Memorial Day exhibits and information will be on site. Reservations are required: please call the Center at 364-6998 by Monday, May 22. A donation of \$3.00 is requested for the meal.

**Sunday, May 28. 19th Annual Charlestown Memorial Day Parade and Observances
Old Post Road (Route 1A) 1:00 p.m.
Ninigret Park Pavilion approx. 3:00 p.m.**

The parade will step off promptly at 1:00 pm. from Ridgewood Drive, and then follow Old Post Road (Route 1A) south to King Tom Drive, passing through the business district and the village of Cross Mills. An estimated 500 individuals, including eight bands and more than twenty youth, military and community organizations will be participating in this year’s event.

Memorial Observances will be conducted during and after the parade. The parade will halt at the Cross’ Mills Baptist Church cemetery and at Cold Brook for brief ceremonies in honor of those who died on land and at sea, respectively. At each ceremony, a wreath will be laid, a brief prayer will be offered, the Charlestown Police Honor Guard will fire three volleys, and taps will be sounded. Following the parade, a similar ceremony will be conducted at the Charlestown Naval Airfield Memorial at Ninigret Park, in honor of those airmen who died, including those who died while in training at the Charlestown naval air facility in World War II.

A place in the parade lineup has been reserved for current and veteran members of our Armed Forces to walk, or ride, together in memory of our fallen heroes. To reserve a seat on the trolley, or to volunteer to march, please contact the Committee at (401) 364-3878 or by email to memorial.day.02813@gmail.com.

A free concert, featuring the Wakefield Concert Band, and a brief speaking program will follow at the pavilion at Ninigret Park. Refreshments will be provided for parade participants, and for the public while supplies last. The public is invited to bring lawn chairs and picnic refreshments, and to enjoy the exhibits and performances in the final community memorial event of the month.

For more information on any of the above events, or to volunteer to help with any aspect of the month’s programs, please email us at memorial.day.02813@gmail.com

The Charlestown Memorial Day Committee, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Tax-deductible donations may be mailed to P. O. Box 74, Charlestown, RI 02813