



★ ★ ★ ★ “Honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice” ★ ★ ★ ★

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2022

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### Return of the Charlestown Memorial Day Parade!

*After two year hiatus due to COVID, the Charlestown Memorial Day Parade returns!*

#### THE 20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHARLESTOWN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND OBSERVANCES ANNOUNCED

**CHARLESTOWN, RI (May 17, 2022)** – The Charlestown Memorial Day Committee, Inc. announces the 20<sup>th</sup> annual [Charlestown Memorial Day Parade and Observances](#) will be held on Sunday, May 29, 2022 rain or shine, produced and directed by the Charlestown Memorial Day Parade Committee and the [Charlestown Chamber of Commerce](#).

The events are held to give honor to our fallen military heroes. The parade will step off at 1:00 p.m., the line of March will be along Route 1A (Old Post Road) in Charlestown beginning at Compass Hardware and ending at Charlestown Liquor Store. Sargent Crew Chief Jim Mageau, founder of The Charlestown Memorial Day Parade Committee and Executive Chairman for 18 years, U.S. Army, Ret., a veteran of the Korean War, will be this year's Grand Marshal.

Memorial observances will be held during two parade stops, at the cemetery at Cross' Mills Baptist Church and at the brook near Town Dock Road; and also, immediately following the parade, at the Charlestown Naval Airfield Memorial at Ninigret Park at

approximately 2:15pm. The three observances honor those who died in the service of our Country, on land, at sea, and in the air, respectively.

“We are honored to bring back the Charlestown Memorial Day Parade and Observances this year,” says Vice Chair and Parade Chair Heather Paliotta, also Executive Director of the Charlestown Chamber of Commerce. “After being forced to not hold this annual tradition and remembrance, due to COVID restrictions over the past two years, we are pleased to be able bring our community back together to show our great appreciation and respect to remember those who have served and made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.”

This year we invite all Rhode Island Gold Star Families not only to participate in the Memorial following the parade, but if so inclined to march in our parade next to our Gold Star Float. Please contact Heather Paliotta, Parade Chair and Charlestown Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, to participate at 401-364-3878.

The Charlestown Memorial Day Committee, Inc. is an all-volunteer, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. To donate or volunteer, email us at [info@charlestownmemorialdayparade.com](mailto:info@charlestownmemorialdayparade.com), or call parade chair Heather Paliotta at 401-364-3878.

## **CHARLESTOWN’S OBSERVANCE OF 154<sup>th</sup> MEMORIAL DAY**

Memorial Day was first observed nationally in 1868 as Decoration Day, established by General John Logan, the commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R., an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War.) His General Orders, No. 11, stated, “The 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.”

Today, 154 years later, flags again commemorate the empty graves of our Civil War soldiers whose bodies never returned home, their names preserved in stone: W.H. Burton, William H. Carpenter, B.F. Hawkes, Samuel Hazard, Reuben A. Healey, Welcome H. Kenyon, Halsey Stevens, William Taylor. In the same cemetery, beside the Cross’ Mills Baptist Church, lie nine Charlestown veterans of the American Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the French & Indian War.

The Charlestown Memorial Day Committee honors all who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all of our nation’s wars, in an annual Parade and Observances. The Gold Star Memorial float recognizes local World War II casualties, and the POW/MIA recognizes those who never returned from war, recorded as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action.

The Charlestown Memorial Day Committee, Inc. is an all-volunteer, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. To donate or volunteer, or for more information, email us at [info@charlestownmemorialdayparade.com](mailto:info@charlestownmemorialdayparade.com), or call parade chair Heather Paliotta at 401-364-3878.

**About the Charlestown Memorial Day Parade Committee:**

*Charlestown Memorial Day Committee is nonprofit organization. The Committee is dedicated in honoring the 1.5 Million men and women who died in service to the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. For more information, please log onto:*  
<https://charlestownmemorialdayparade.com>.

**About the Charlestown Chamber of Commerce:**

*The Charlestown Chamber of Commerce is a not for profit organization comprised of several hundred businesses, non-profit and associate members. The chamber's mission is to facilitate and ensure the success and growth of our business community and our members through business networking and the promotion of regional tourism. The chamber is dedicated to the cultural, historical, environmental, recreational and civic well-being of the beautiful coastal communities in and around Charlestown, Rhode Island. For more information, please log onto:*  
<https://www.charlestownrichamber.com>.

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