

Supervisor Brian Kulpa's May 2022 Column



Memorial Day will be observed across the country later this month, honoring the brave men and women who gave their lives protecting our freedoms. During this day of remembrance, the pride we feel for our servicemen and women is often marked by ceremonies, parades and services. I want to thank those who have worked tirelessly to make these events possible and bring the community together.

For me personally, Memorial Day is often a moment for reflection and introspection as we consider all that we have in this country would not be possible without the self-sacrifice of our military members. The magnitude of their love of freedom, their pride in the rights of individuals and their allegiance to this great nation must not be forgotten or be left unmarked.

I was a fortunate grandson of two brave soldiers who fought treachery in World War II and who lost many of their friends. My Grandfather Kulpa, himself a Purple Heart recipient, taught us that those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country should be exalted and their commitment remembered.

While COVID significantly altered Memorial Day in 2020 and 2021, many events are returning this year. However, organizers of the Williamsville Memorial Day Parade announced that the parade will unfortunately not be held. The parade was always a wonderful tradition and for many years members of VFW Post 416 and George F. Lamm Post 622 and volunteers ensured the parade stepped off and we thank them for their hard work.

There will still be many opportunities to honor the day locally. The Amherst Veterans Committee will host a Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony and Wreath Laying at 1 p.m. Monday, May 30 at the Williamsville Cemetery, 5402 Main Street at Reist Street. All are welcome to attend. This event is being held in coordination with local veterans, Forest Lawn, the Amherst Police Department and others. Additional details will be announced in The Bee closer to the event.

There will also be a ceremony at 9 a.m. Friday, May 27 at the Town's Veterans Memorial, 366 Mill Street. Mill Middle School students from chorus, orchestra and band will perform, in addition to reciting patriotic readings. The event is held in coordination with local veterans.

The members of the Veterans Committee and veteran posts throughout the Town who ensure we properly honor Memorial Day are to be commended. To all the servicemen and women who have sacrificed so much, I thank you. I wish everyone a safe and peaceful Memorial Day as we come together as a Town to pay respect to those we've lost and remember that freedom is not free. May God bless those not here with us, and may God bless America.