

Post 90 Gazette

June 2021

Edited by Amy Ostler



Memorial Day events

Sun River will have a Memorial Day service on Monday at 8:00 AM at the Veterans Honor Park.

Post 90 will be holding a Memorial Day event on Monday morning at 10:00 AM at Spilsbury Mortuary on 110 S. Bluff St.

99.9 KONY Country is going to honor those who have served and those who have died in service by holding a moment of silence on Monday, Memorial Day at 3:00 PM.

Memorial Day Poem

Daddy's Poem

Her hair was up in a pony tail,
Her favorite dress tied with a bow.
Today was Daddy's Day at school,
And she couldn't wait to go.

But her mommy tried to tell her,
That she probably should stay home
Why the kids might not understand,
If she went to school alone.

See page 6.

Not just a place for us to bury our loved ones': Memorial Day highlights importance of cemeteries

Written by Mori Kessler
May 28, 2021

ST. GEORGE — With Memorial Day on the horizon, many people will be traveling to cemeteries across the nation to pay their respects to soldiers who have passed on. These visits highlight the value of cemeteries as visitors reflect on the sacrifices made by those who served, they can also be places of peaceful reminiscence and meditation year-round.

See full story on page 2



Commander's Column

Marti Bigbie

Wednesday, May 26th, the new 2021-2022 Executive Board was installed by Dennis Wagner, District 7 Commander. Remember the Post is dark for the months of June, July and August. The Executive Board will continue to meet the 2nd Tuesday of these months and dinner/meeting will start again in September.

There will be activities/events over the summer and as they become known I will be sending these events in an email if you are able to help/participate help will be welcomed. 2022 membership begins on 7-1-2021/6-30-2022. If you can please get in the early-bird and send in your renewal membership dues of \$40.00 to the Post Office Box or pay online with your credit card.

Everyone please have a safe and healthy summer.



Commander Department of Utah

Marti Bigbie

Thanks to everyone for your help over the last 3 years (Vice Commander, and 2-Commander) with membership and inviting new members to join. Utah has received many awards and we are scheduled for this to happen again this year. Remember WE ARE A TEAM so let's continue with this motto during BUDDY CHECKS and remember the State Convention in Ogden June 25-27.

Not just a place for us to bury our loved ones': Memorial Day highlights importance of cemeteries

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ST. GEORGE — With Memorial Day on the horizon, many people will be traveling to cemeteries across the nation to pay their respects to soldiers who have passed on. These visits highlight the value of cemeteries as visitors reflect on the sacrifices made by those who served, they can also be places of peaceful reminiscence and meditation year-round.



A member of the Southern Utah chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution plants a new flag at the veteran's gravesite at the Shivwits Cemetery, Shivwits, Utah, May 25, 2021 | Photo courtesy of Valerie King, St. George News

"Most people don't go to cemeteries anymore or give reverence to those who served," Valerie King, regent of the Color Country Chapter of the Daughters of the

American Revolution, said while reflecting on a recent visit she made.

Earlier that day, King and other members of the chapter visited the Shivwits Cemetery on the Shivwits Reservation in order to replace the small American flags planted next to each grave stone marking a Native American veteran.

While King has previously visited the cemetery as a part of the Wreaths Across America program that the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has been heavily involved in since 2012, it was the first time she went for the “refreshing of the flags,” and it was an experience she said she will not soon forget.

“It really warmed my heart,” King said.

In the past, people would make an event out of visiting the cemetery on Memorial Day and even have picnics there, King said, but the main focus of the day was still giving their reverence and respect to the soldiers buried in those cemeteries. This is what Memorial Day should be about, she said.



The gravesite of a Vietnam War veteran at the Shivwits Cemetery, Shivwits, Utah, May 25, 2021 | Photo courtesy of Valerie King, St. George News

“It is said that, ‘A soldier dies twice: once wherever he takes his last breath, and he dies again when he’s forgotten,’” King said. “All of (these veterans) have preserved the freedoms we enjoy. Remember those who served and paid the ultimate price for those principles.”

Last year, most onsite events of Memorial Day at city cemeteries was greatly limited or canceled due the COVID-19 pandemic. Now,

with concerns over the virus waning due to continuing vaccinations and lower case numbers, public events are being held again.

The [Memorial Day Service at SunRiver](#) returns Monday at 8 a.m. and will take place at the SunRiver Veterans Honor Park in St. George.

The city of St. George will also be holding a Memorial Day event on Monday at 10 a.m. presented by American Legion Post 90 at Spilsbury Mortuary on 110 S. Bluff St. (See Ed. note)

Cedar City will host their [Memorial Day Recognition and Veteran’s Memorial Service](#) at 10 a.m. at the city cemetery at 685 N. Main St.

'A spot that is open and welcoming, being full of light and beauty'

Memorial Day is one of those times of year that the spotlight shifts to cemeteries as a place of remembrance and reflection. The rest of the year, people may not give these areas much thought unless they have a loved one buried there.



At the St. George City Cemetery on South 700 East in St. George Utah, May 20, 2021 | Photo by Mori Kessler, St. George News

"Memorial Day is like the Super Bowl for cemeteries," said Barry Blake, the leisure services director for Washington City.

Washington City recently completed an expansion of its cemetery, which prompted a question: What is the value of a cemetery to a community?

Memorial Day is perhaps the highest day of visitation for many cemeteries; however, for those who have friends and loved ones buried at the cemetery, the ability to visit and remember them is year-round.

In a [2017 post](#) featured on the Nutmeg State Cremation Society blog, the author shared the reasons why they felt cemeteries were important places:

Not just a place for us to bury our loved ones, cemeteries are wonderfully versatile spaces that are accessible to the entire community. They are, by their very nature, places of quiet reminiscence, even melancholy, at times. This makes them a perfect place to go to think about the things that are troubling you or take a leisurely stroll to simply enjoy a beautiful day. A cemetery is not a dark and dreary place, but is, in reality, a spot that is open and welcoming, being full of light and beauty. Any cemetery is an absolute benefit to any community and we encourage you to reconsider the previous stereotypes and instead focus on the good a cemetery can do.



Shane Moore, who [was recently promoted](#) as St. George's leisure services director, echoed the blog author's sentiments.

"One of the main values of the cemetery is family can come and visit their relatives who have passed on," he said. "It's also a place of remembrance and reverence that's also very relaxing and meditative."

At the Washington City Cemetery, Washington City, Utah, May 20, 2021 | Photo by Mori Kessler, St. George News

Cemeteries also hold historical value, Moore said, noting that there are some graves in the city cemetery that date back to the time of the Spanish Flu.

"It's very interesting to see the dates (on the gravestones)," he said.

Another aspect of the historical significance of cemeteries is how they can add to the personal history of individuals and families involved in genealogical research.

Blake added that he felt that how well a cemetery is maintained can say a lot about the community where it's located.

"It's how you feel about those that came before you," he said. "I think cemeteries, in a way, tell you about a city. It shows how those in the present honor the dead. You can tell how much a community cares by how its cemetery looks."

As for those employees who look after the city cemeteries, Moore spoke highly of them.

"The people we have working at the cemetery care deeply about their job," he said. "They are compassionate, caring, empathetic people."

2021 Memorial Day Schedule of Major Events

Virtual Memorial Day Events

- **Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM)**
 - [VLM contains a memorial page for each Veteran and service member](#) interred in a VA national cemetery.
 - VLM is now permitting online visitors to leave a comment of tribute on a Veteran's page, a new way to observe Memorial Day.
- **Create a Free Remembrance Plaque**
 - [Together We Served](#) is inviting any Veteran or Family Member to create a **Remembrance Military Service Plaque**, at no charge, to remember an Active Serving or Veteran Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Airman or Coastguardsman who is now Deceased.
- **National D-Day Memorial** – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. est on Mon. May 31st
 - [The Memorial](#) will honor and remember those who gave their lives to the cause of freedom with a virtual online event. On-site visitors get free admission 10AM – Noon and can view the ceremony from a screen in the Bobbie G. Johnson pavilion.
- **New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Remembrance Day Ceremony** – Online at 11:00 a.m. EST on Monday, May 31st
 - [Full virtual program](#) will be broadcast across social media and posted on the website.
- **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** – Online at 1:00 p.m. EST on Monday, May 31st
 - The 2021 [Memorial Day Ceremony](#) will be a live webcast. A small in-person ceremony will take place limited to 250 guests. Spots must be reserved in advance.
- **Virtual National Relay**

- [Carry The Load's Memorial May Campaign](#), in partnership with the VA, brings awareness to the service and sacrifice of our military, veterans, first responders and their families. Start or join a team or participate as an individual.
- **Wear Blue to Remember/Team Red White and Blue (RWB)**
 - Join virtually, in honoring our fallen service members and their [families' sacrifice by wearing blue](#) on May 31st.
- **Parade of Heroes – 8 a.m. PT May 31**
 - Virtual Event on www.facebook.com/AncestryUS and later available on Ancestry.com

Daddy's Poem

Her hair was up in a pony tail,
Her favorite dress tied with a bow.
Today was Daddy's Day at school,
And she couldn't wait to go.

But her mommy tried to tell her,
That she probably should stay home
Why the kids might not understand,
If she went to school alone.

But she was not afraid;
She knew just what to say.
What to tell her classmates
Of why he wasn't there today.
But still her mother worried,
For her to face this day alone.
And that was why once again,
She tried to keep her daughter home.

But the little girl went to school
Eager to tell them all.
About a dad she never sees a dad
Who never calls.

There were daddies along the wall in
Back, for everyone to meet.
Children squirming impatiently,
Anxious in their seats.
One by one the teacher called
A student from the class.
To introduce their daddy,
As seconds slowly passed.

At last the teacher called her name,
Every child turned to stare.
Each of them was searching,
A man who wasn't there.

"Where's her daddy at?"
She heard a boy call out.
"She probably doesn't have one,"
Another student dared to shout.

And from somewhere near the back,
She heard a daddy say,
"Looks like another deadbeat dad,
Too busy to waste his day."
The words did not offend her,
As she smiled up at her Mom.
And looked back at her teacher, who
Told her to go on.

And with hands behind her back,
Slowly she began to speak.
And out from the mouth of a child,
Came words incredibly unique.

"My Daddy couldn't be here,
Because he lives so far away.
But I know he wishes he could be,
Since this is such a special day.
And though you cannot meet him,
I wanted you to know.
All about my daddy,
And how much he loves me so.

He loved to tell me stories
He taught me to ride my bike.
He surprised me with pink roses,
And taught me to fly a kite.
We used to share fudge sundaes,
And ice cream in a cone.
And though you cannot see him.
I'm not standing here alone.

"Cause my daddy's always with me,
Even though we are apart
I know because he told me,
He'll forever be in my heart"

With that, her little hand reached up,
And lay across her chest.
Feeling her own heartbeat,
Beneath her favorite dress.

And from somewhere there in the crowd
Of dads, her mother stood in tears.
Proudly watching her daughter,
Who was wise beyond her years.

For she stood up for the love
Of a man not in her life.
Doing what was best for her,
Doing what was a right.

And when she dropped her hand back
Down, staring straight into the crowd.
She finished with a voice so soft,
But its message clear and loud.
"I love my daddy very much,
he's my shining star.
And if he could, he'd be here,
But heaven's just too far.

You see he is an American Soldier
And died just this past year
When a roadside bomb hit his convoy
And taught Americans to fear.

But sometimes when I close my eyes,
it's like he never went away."
And then she closed her eyes,
And saw him there that day.

And to her mother's amazement,

She witnessed with surprise.
A room full of daddies and children,
All starting to close their eyes.

Who knows what they saw before them,
Who knows what they felt inside.
Perhaps for merely a second,
They saw him at her side.

"I know you're with me Daddy,"
To the silence she called out.
And what happened next made believers,
Of those once filled with doubt.

Not one in that room could explain it,
For each of their eyes had been closed.
But there on the desk beside her,
Was a fragrant long-stemmed pink rose.

And a child was blessed, if only for
a moment, by the love of her shining star.
And given the gift of believing,
that heaven is never too far.