

To: Board of Selectmen.

From: Memorial Committee.

Subject: Memorial Day Services and Ceremony.

Dear Board of Selectmen,

The Memorial Committee would like to report a very successful and meaningful Memorial Day service and ceremony which took place Sunday May 28, 2017. Features of the event were; Commonwealth Proclamation reading, Children's Choir and Soloist , Gill Veterans and Citizens holding Service Flags , Special flag raising ceremony, Custom Flag Holder Plaque displayed for the first time.

On Friday May 26, 2017, all the Veterans graves in Gill Cemeteries received a new flag and a small geranium. The area around the Veterans Monuments in the center were cleaned, and small flowers were planted in the planters. Also the flags were replaced in the ten flag holders in front of the Monuments. Big thanks to Doug Smith and Chet Kuzontkoski for maintaining the area.

Sunday May 28, 2017, before Church Services, The flags (U.S. Ensign and POW/MIA) were replaced on the center common. Church Services were presided over by Gary Bourbeau. The Massachusetts State Proclamation was read by Chet Kuzontkoski. Piano played by Dragds Nichita and the Children's Trio Choir, David, Venassa, and Ovi Nichita were outstanding. A Solo performance by Madison Bourbeau with a song she wrote special for Memorial Day was very well done. Within the Church Program was an insert thanking and listing all donors who supported our Flag Project.

After services the group walked across Main road to the Veterans Monuments. Opening the Ceremony was Selectmen Greg Snedeker and Marine Corp Commandant Brian Brooks. The Rose Ceremony was conducted by Memorial Committee members, Doug and Elaine Smith. The Marine Corps Color Guard and Rifle Salute were crisp and formal. The Flag raising by Mike Hastings and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was flawless. Taps was played by Buglers Steve and Joyanna Damon. Bag Piper

Phelan Muller did a super job in playing several verses of Amazing Grace. The Citizens who man our service flags during the Ceremony were mostly Veterans and we thank them for their service. Everything went very smoothly and according to plan. This Ceremony was truly the best to date, our finest hour. The Memorial Committee would like to thank all of those who participated in this event, and all for attending.

In the closing, Chet Kuzontkoski gave a brief overview of what the Memorial Committee has been doing and plans on doing in the future. This to inform the Town of our activities which include; Expanding our Flag project, Continue to replace, refit all Flag Holders in Gill Cemeteries, name additions to the existing Monuments and explore a new stone or Monument, Provide a special Memorial Day service for the Town of Gill. Our highlight came with the delivery ( that day ) of a Cider plaque made by Sam French to display the flag Holders that we had replaced in 2008, some of which had stood in front of the Monuments since 1946. The Committees intent was to preserve and display this Gill history for all to see and enjoy. A huge thanks to Dick and Sam French for a great plaque that will forever keep that Gill history alive and well.

Respectively,

Gary Bourbeau  
Merri Bourbeau  
Doug Smith  
Elaine Smith  
Chet Kuzontkoski

Memorial Committee