

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 5/9/2024

"Memorial Day, 2024"

Monday, May 27th brings a national holiday long celebrated in Sylvania and around the country to honor our veterans who have bravely served in the armed forces and protected America. Many have died in battle, and many more are now growing old and nearing the end of their lives. Some have served in World War II and Korea, or more recently in Vietnam, the Middle East or elsewhere around the world. All these patriots and those serving today deserve our thanks and acclaim.

This year, we will again be having a parade and memorial service. The Memorial Day Parade will assemble at Northview High School, head north on Silica at 10:15 a.m., and turn east on Monroe street. The parade will pause for a wreath ceremony at the statue in front of City Hall. In 2023, the City added two memorials in front of City Hall recognizing the Gold Star and Blue Star Families.

The parade will then proceed north on Main Street and continue on to Veterans Memorial Field. An 11:00 a.m. Memorial Day Service follows at the north end of Veterans Memorial Field, and is always one of the largest and best attended in northwest Ohio.

The day will actually begin earlier at 8:00 a.m. with veterans placing flags at the Association Cemetery on Convent Blvd., then at St. Joseph Cemetery and Ravine Cemetery. The morning continues with a 9:00 a.m. Memorial Ceremony at Toledo Memorial Park and Cemetery in a field near the 75 foot high Veterans Memorial Monument where more than 1,400 veterans are buried. Throughout the Cemetery over 14,000 veterans are laid to rest, and an American flag will be posted by volunteers on each veteran's grave creating a sea of flags.

The Sylvania Memorial Day Parade and Service is organized by the Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce and is supported by our local veterans organizations and the City of Sylvania. Over the years, many of us have participated in the parade in one way or another. The Northview High School and Southview High School bands are always a part of the parade and ceremonies. I remember how excited and honored I was to first march with the Sylvania High School band on Memorial Day, 1968.

There are five bronze monuments at Veterans Memorial Field honoring those who served in five wars, and list the names of all Sylvanians who died in those wars. There is also a tank and a Howitzer cannon on display. In addition, a bronze statue cast in 1982 honoring those veterans stands in front of Sylvania City Hall on Monroe Street, where it is visible to thousands of people every day.

The World War II Roll of Honor, previously on display in the old Burnham Building, was relocated to City Hall in 2010 and is on display in the first floor lobby. The Roll of Honor was restored and rededicated eleven years ago during a ceremony attended by many of Sylvania's veterans who attended Burnham High School.

Memorial Day has always been a patriotic day. During these uncertain times of unrest in different parts of the world, we are even more reminded of the need for a strong defense. If not veterans ourselves, nearly all of us have a friend or relative who served in the armed forces or is serving today, putting their lives at risk to protect freedom. Further, many of us have a relative or know of a community member who was injured or killed in defense of America. Memorial Day is the day to honor these heroes and to celebrate our freedom.



City Hall Gold Star Memorial & Statue