

Memorial Day, 2022

History of Memorial Day

- Civil War honored 620,000 fallen soldiers
- Originally called Decoration Day and celebrated on May 30th
- First National observance was in Arlington in 1868
- Started as a state holiday
- In 1968, moved to last Monday in May effective 1971
- Observance requires flag at half-staff until noon; then raised to full staff

Significance:

Americans willing to die for freedoms set forth in the Constitution

Because of these freedoms, we are able to be here to honor our fallen unsung heroes. This ceremony is just the type of activity they fought to defend

RCOP has been in place since December 7, 1936 – five years ahead of US WWII involvement. Many members have served in the military, but ALL have served our community in some way or another. We come from all walks of life, we all have our own religious beliefs, and our political views offer differ. However, we all believe in a set of high ethical standards that enable us to focus on the needs of our community and take action to make a difference

This might mean scholarships for high school students, supporting community Blessing Boxes, helping our new Veterans Village, conducting free dental clinics, supporting our Transition center, or helping with many of the other city non-profits. We are proud to serve our community and this flagpole project is great example of working with our community to get things done.

With the help of the Historical Foundation and the city, we have dug the hole for the pole, poured its foundation, reworked the electrical and re-done the landscaping and irrigation. I would personally like to thank Joel Cardenas and his crew for all of their labor and support. My back and backs of a few other Rotarians are also very thankful. I also want to thank the Rotary Club committee members for all of their support.

I think the final results speak for themselves. The city now has a flagpole here at Bradford House Park that honors the heritage of our city.

Mayor, step forward. On behalf of the RCOP, it's my honor to turn over the keys to our new flagpole in the hopes that the flag will forever fly in peace and honor the fallen heroes that have made today possible.