

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Sunday, May 26, 2024, 11:00 a.m.

Service will open in the sanctuary of The Community Church, Harrisville, New Hampshire

(Inclement weather: Service will continue inside Community Church)

Opening Remarks

(Rodger Martin, US Army, 1966-1969)

Thank you for being a part of this memorial service today. I wish to welcome and thank Pastor Traceymay Kalvaitis, the Combined Parish, the musicians, Rogers' Rangers Musket Team, The Harrisville Library, Chief Steven LaMears, and the Town of Harrisville for making this possible. Please join us in the choruses of the songs. The words are at the back of your program. The volunteers of the Community Church invite you to join them for a light lunch at the conclusion of the ceremony.

In these next few minutes let us again recognize the immensity of sacrifice these soldiers had to make and who, but for the Grace of God, could be you or me.

In April, 1861, Confederate guns fired on Fort Sumter beginning a Civil War that claimed over seven-hundred thousand lives. It is likely Isaiah, Chapter 2, Verse 4, of the Hebrew Scripture, was on the minds of many by the conclusion of that war:

"And he shall judge among the nations,
and shall rebuke many people:
and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks:
nation shall not lift up swords against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more."

In the early days of that war Major Sullivan Ballou, 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers, wrote these excerpts in a letter to his wife, July 14, 1861, Washington, D.C., less than eight weeks after the presentation of this Bible:

"Dear Sarah,

"The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days, perhaps tomorrow. Unless I should not be able to write you again, I feel impelled to write a few lines that may fall under your eyes when I am no more.

"Sarah, my love for you is deathless. It seems to bind me with mighty cables that nothing but omnipotence can break and yet my love of country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistibly with all these chains to the battlefield.

"The memory of all the blissful moments I've enjoyed with you come crowding over me and I feel most grateful to God and you that I've enjoyed them for so long. And how hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes of future years when, God willing, we might still have lived and loved together and seen our boys grow-up to honorable manhood around us. If I do not return, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I loved you, nor that when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield it will whisper your name.

"Forgive my many faults and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless, how foolish I have sometimes been. But, oh Sarah, if the dead can come back to this Earth and flit unseen around those they love, I shall always be with you in the brightest day and darkest night—always—always. And when the soft breeze fans your cheek it shall be my breath, or the cool air your throbbing temple, it shall be my spirit passing by."

Major Sullivan Ballou was killed one week later, July 21, at the First Battle of Bull Run.

Musical Selection "Ashoken Farewell"

(by Jay Ungar)

The following are the names we know of those Harrisville residents or relatives and friends of Harrisville who have lost their lives in the service of their country from 1776 up to and including World War I read by Captain Dorothy Grant (USN, Retired) in honor and memory of Jay Jacobs:

Micah Morse, died in the service of the Continental Army shortly after the Battle of Bennington, Vermont, August 16, 1777.

Thomas Muzzey, Doolittle's Regiment, died in the service of the Continental Army on or about February 1, 1781.

Silas Stone, Sr., Nathan Hale's Regiment, died in the service of the Continental Army on or about October 17, 1777.

Lieutenant John Swan, died in the service of the Continental Army, 1780.

Private George Washington Bancroft, Harrisville, 16th New Hampshire Infantry, died of disease at Vicksburg, Mississippi, August 9, 1863.

Private William Yardley Beal, Harrisville, 6th New Hampshire Infantry, killed at the Second Battle of Bull Run, August 29, 1862.

Private Nathan M. Derby, Harrisville, died of disease contracted while in the service of the Union Army, April 20, 1865.

First Lieutenant Jesse Appleton Fisk, 14th New Hampshire Infantry, killed at the Battle of Opequan ([OP-eh-KWAN](#)) Creek, Winchester, Virginia, September 19, 1864.

Corporal Malachi Wilson Richardson, Harrisville, 13th New Hampshire Infantry, killed at the Battle of Cold Harbor, June 2, 1864.

Private Levi Willard, Harrisville, 6th New Hampshire Infantry, killed at the Second Battle of Bull Run, August 29, 1862.

Corporal James Ford Barrowman Young, 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish), 3rd Brigade, 1st Canadian Division, killed in action at the Battle of the Somme, June 13, 1916.

First Lieutenant Harold W. Hayward, American Expeditionary Force, died August 11, 1941, of complications from a poison gas attack in France, 1918.

Private Wilfred Marquis, ([Mar-KEE](#)) 9th Infantry Regiment, American Expeditionary Force, died November 22, 1919, of complications from a poison gas attack in France, 1918

Private Earle Clesson Russell, Harrisville, American Expeditionary Force, died October 22, 1923, of complications from a poison gas attack in France, 1918.

Staff Captain Harry Young, Royal Engineers, died 1919, of complications of a poison gas attack in France, 1918.

Musical Selection: "The Weight of The Names" music and lyrics by Timothy Mowry.

Prayer (Pastor Tracymay Kalvaitis)

We will now move outside to 1918 Bridge & Veterans' Park for the placement of the wreath, musket salute and "Taps" in memory of those veterans from 1776 through 1918.

Placement of the wreaths at the 1918 Bridge
(Captain Dorothy Grant, USN Retired)

Musket Salute
(Rogers' Rangers Musket Team)

Taps
(Caleigh Hicks)

Musical Selection "Hard Times"
(by Stephen Foster)

Following are the names we know of those Harrisville residents or relatives and friends of Harrisville who have lost their lives in the service of their country beginning with World War II until today, read by Captain Dorothy Grant, (USN, Retired) in honor and memory of Larry Rathburn:

Flight Officer Harold L. Blake, United States Army Air Corps, 28th Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group, killed in action over Nagoya, ([NAH-GOY-yah](#)) Japan, June 26, 1945

Staff Sergeant Ralph James Clark, Harrisville, United States Army, 350th Infantry Regiment, 88th Division, died January 28, 1973, of complications from shrapnel wounds to the lungs during the battle for Salerno, Italy, 1943

Staff Sergeant Royden Edward Conopask, 670th Bomber Squadron, killed in action near Benerville, France, May 19, 1944. United States Army Air Corps,

Technician Fifth Class Robert Curtis, Harrisville, United States Army, medic, 67th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Division, died August 2, 1944, of wounds received during the Invasion of Normandy.

Private First Class Quentin Dunn, United States Army, killed in action in the Argonne Forest at The Battle of The Bulge, December, 1944.

Sergeant Richard Williams Fitch, died in the service of the Royal Air Force, England, January 3, 1945.

Private Roland C. Getty, United States Army Air Corps, 25th Bombardment Group, killed in Burma, November 17, 1944.

Sergeant Lauri Luoma, Harrisville, United States Marine Corps, killed in action during the Invasion of Guadalcanal, November 4, 1942.

Private John Joseph Marsella, United States Army, 1st Armored Division, killed in action during the invasion of Anzio, Italy, May 26, 1944.

Shipfitter First Class Aaron Weaver Martin, United States Navy, 82nd Construction Battalion, killed in action at Vella LaVella, South Pacific, November 4, 1943.

Lieutenant Theron G. Platt, United States Army Air Corps, 90th Bomber Squadron, killed in action in New Guinea, November 1, 1942.

Private First Class William Terry, Harrisville, United States Army, E Company, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, killed in action at Normandy, France, June 9, 1944.

Private First Class Edward B. Van Zile, Chesham, United States Marine Corps, 14th Regiment, killed in action on Iwo Jima, February 24, 1945, posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for valor.

Warrant Officer Eddie W. Brown, United States Army, C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, 1st Aviation Brigade, killed in action in Hau Nghia Province ([How Knee-ah](#)), South Vietnam, November 16, 1968.

Staff Sergeant Eugene Harriman, United States Army, A Company, 588th Combat Engineers, died December 23, 1967, of wounds received December 13, at Thien Ngon ([Thin-yon](#)), Republic of Vietnam.

First Lieutenant James Marshall Hill, United States Army, A Company, 588th Combat Engineers, killed in action February 15, 1968, at Thien Ngon, Republic of Vietnam.

Specialist Fourth Class Leonard King Nute, Headquarter's Company, 1st Bn., 14th Infantry Regiment, 25th

Infantry Division, died of wounds received in action in Quan Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam, May 25, 1967, awarded the Bronze Star for valor.

First Lieutenant William Dwight Ordway, United States Army, killed in action in Quang Ngai Province, the Republic of Vietnam, January 18, 1968, posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for valor.

Private First Class Mark Edward Parker, United States Army, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, “Air Mobile,” killed in action in the Republic of Vietnam, August 8, 1966.

Commander Edwin Byron Tucker, United States Navy, Fighter Squadron 24, *USS BON HOMME RICHARD*, killed in action in North Vietnam, April 24, 1967.

Private First Class Willard Leo Williams, Jr., United States Army, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st. Cavalry Division, killed in action in Quang Tri Province, the Republic of Vietnam, March 30, 1968.

Sergeant Paul Barclay, United States Army, 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Devens, killed in action over Iraq, April 14, 1994.

Staff Sergeant Richard L. Robinson, United States Army, 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Devens, killed in action over Iraq, April 14, 1994.

Placement of the wreaths at the WWI/WWII Monument, and Combined Service Monument by Select Board
(Andrew Maneval, Andrea Hodson, and Kathy Scott)

“Letter to St. Peter”
(Elma Dean, Nurse, Pacific Theater, WWII)

Let them in, Peter, they are very tired;
Give them the couches where the angels sleep.
Let them wake whole again to new dawns fired
With sun not war. And may their peace be deep.
Remember where the broken bodies lie ...
And give them things they like. Let them make noise.
God knows how young they were to have to die!

Give swing bands, not gold harps, to these our boys.
Let them love, Peter, – they have had no time –
Girls sweet as meadow wind, with flowering hair ...
They should have trees and bird song, hills to climb –
The taste of summer in a ripened pear.
Tell them how they are missed. Say not to fear;
It’s going to be all right with us down here.

Prayer
(Pastor Tracymay Kalvaitis)

Rifle Salute
(Rogers’ Rangers Musket Team)

Taps
(Caleigh Hicks)

Closing musical selection lyrics to “Go in Peace”
(by Sam Baker and Liz Rose)

If you know the name of a Harrisville resident, relative of Harrisville, or a friend who has died in the service of his or her country, please provide the details to Rodger Martin (rodgerwriter@myfairpoint.net) for inclusion in next year's service. The volunteers of the Community Church have offered a light lunch in the fellowship hall. Please feel welcome to join them.

Musicians:

Matt Harris, violin

Volkert Volkersz, guitar, vocals

Caleigh Hicks, UNH, trumpet

Tim Mowry, guitar, mandolin, vocals

Rogers' Rangers Musket Firing Team: Don Scott, Alex Page

The Weight of the Names
(music and lyrics by Timothy Mowry)

On a bright day in springtime when we haven't a care
The flowers are blooming, birdsongs fill the air.
We gather together, the ones who remain
And pause for a moment to remember the names.

Each one but a pebble, not much by itself.
A distant relation of somebody else.
But the pebbles keep falling like a dark steady rain,
'Til I find myself buried 'neath the weight of the names.

Chorus

*The weight of the names seems too great to bear
For we, the still living, who remember and care
And shoulder the sorrow, the guilt and the shame.
Our burden to carry is the weight of the names
Our burden to carry is the weight of the names.*

For duty and honor, for freedom, for land
For reasons and leaders we don't understand
Well the reasons keep changing, but the end is the same
A flag slowly folded, and we add one more name.

The weight of the names seems too great to bear...

One night I lay dreaming of a long, distant shore
Where no one could fathom sending young ones to war.
Is it too much to ask for? Am I dreaming in vain?
Still, I pray for a future when we'll add no more names.

The weight of the names seems too great to bear ...

“Hard Times” by Stephen Foster

1.

Let us pause in life's pleasures
To look upon its tears
While we all sup sorrow with the poor.
There's a song that will linger
Forever in our ears;
Oh, hard times come again no more

*Chorus: 'Tis a song, the sigh of the weary
Hard times, hard times, come again no more.
Many days you have lingered around my cabin door;
Oh, hard times come again no more.*

2.

While we seek truth and beauty
In music bright and gay
There are frail forms fainting at the door.
Though their voices are silent
Their pleading looks will say,
“Oh, hard times come again no more.”

Chorus

3.

'Tis a song that is wafted
Across the ocean foam;
'Tis a wail heard plain upon the shore.
'Tis a dirge that is murmured
Around the lonesome grave;
Oh, hard times come again no more.

Chorus

Go In Peace: Traditional hymn, "Come Thou Fount," : Songwriters: Sam Baker, Liz Rose

Go in peace, go in kindness, go in love, go in faith.
Leave the day, the day behind us.
Day is done. Go in grace.
Let us go into the dark -- not afraid, not alone.
Let us hope, by some good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.

"Taps" music & lyrics adapted from "End of Day" Bugle call by Alexander Butterfield, 1862

Day is done, gone the sun
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky
All is well, safely rest
God is nigh

Fading light dims the sight
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright
From afar, drawing near
Falls the night

Thanks and praise for our days
Neath the sun, neath the stars, neath the sky
As we go, this we know
God is nigh

"Letter to St. Peter", by Elma G Dean

Let them in, Peter, they are very tired;
Give them the couches where the angels sleep.
Let them wake whole again to new dawns fired
With sun not war. And may their peace be deep.
Remember where the broken bodies lie ...
And give them things they like. Let them make noise.
God knows how young they were to have to die!

Give swing bands, not gold harps, to these our boys.
Let them love, Peter, – they have had no time –
Girls sweet as meadow wind, with flowering hair...
They should have trees and bird song, hills to climb –
The taste of summer in a ripened pear.
Tell them how they are missed. Say not to fear;
It's going to be all right with us down here.