



NATIONAL PATRIOTIC MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS



May 2026

MEMORIAL DAY

As part of the 250th Anniversary of our history we should discuss and educate the public about How Memorial Day came about.

Memorial Sunday is defined in the "Ritual and Ceremonials" as the Sunday preceding Memorial Day. It should be observed by every Camp and every member by attending Divine services, preferably with members of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic. Camp Commanders should issue instructions to members covering memorial Sunday, advising them in full detail time and place of the services and of needed information concerning participation of the Camp in the program. Memorial Day - First observed in 1868.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11.

Also, when you conduct an event on Memorial Day, turn it into a Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary event. Incorporate the 250th script emailed to the Department and Camp Commanders. Here is a flyer from the Walter H French Camp #17, Department of NY doing just that.

COPENHAGEN, NY

MEMORIAL DAY AND AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION

- Memorial Day Parade at 10:00 AM - Begins at the school on Mechanic St. and proceeds to Riverside Cemetery
- Ceremony at Riverside Cemetery for America 250
 - Revolutionary War Patriot Recognition
 - Legion Memorial Ceremony
- Parade resumes to the bandstand and ends there
- Music provided by Copenhagen Central School Marching Knights and ceremony roles provided by National Honor Society Students
- Chicken BBQ, Ice Cream (free), and quilt raffle at the Pavilion following the parade
- Bussing available to Riverside Cemetery and back
- Bring your own chairs for Ceremony

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**



AMERICA

250

Jeffrey French

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty
Brother Jeffrey French, PDC
National Patriotic Instructor