

Proclamation



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MEMORIAL DAY May 27, 2019

WHEREAS, On May 30, 1868, three years after the Civil War ended, veterans from Northampton gathered and joined other veterans from all over our country for the first Decoration Day remembrance; and,

WHEREAS, the veterans assembled and then marched to cemeteries where they decorated the graves of the dead with flowers and memorialized their comrades who had died in the Civil War. As veterans they followed the orders of Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, the commander of the organization of Union veterans known as the Grand Army of the Republic. General Logan issued what was called General Order Number 11, which designated May 30 as a Memorial Day; and,

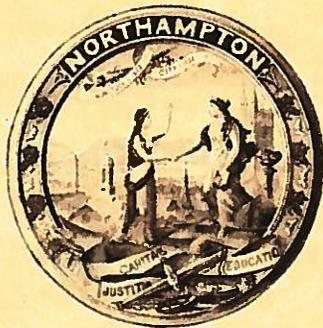
WHEREAS, this date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country, and the general's order directed veterans to decorate graves "with the choicest flowers of springtime." He commanded one and all to "guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic"; and,

WHEREAS, Since that first commemoration in 1868, veterans from Northampton and its villages of Florence and Leeds, have been in the lead in carrying out this sacred tradition. For 151 consecutive years, rain or shine, without fail, always on the same day, they have expressed to one and all that on Memorial Day, everything should be focused on one singular and unifying principle – that the war dead cannot and will not be forgotten; and,

WHEREAS the freedoms and liberties we enjoy are a direct result of the courage, devotion, and sacrifice of the members of our Armed Forces; and

**NOW,
THEREFORE,** I, Mayor David J. Narkewicz, do hereby declare Memorial Day a special day of remembrance on which we, the citizens of Northampton, rededicate ourselves to the task of honoring all Veterans who have passed, and the families who loved and supported them.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and imprinted the seal of the City on this 27th day of May, 2019.



Mayor David J. Narkewicz