

Proclamation



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MEMORIAL DAY
May 31, 2021

WHEREAS, from 1776 to the present, thousands of Northampton citizens have served and continue to serve in our nation's armed forces; and

WHEREAS, it is our solemn duty on this day and every day to honor the memory of the women and men who died while serving and defending our nation in uniform; and

WHEREAS, our city is home to the graves of over 5,000 of these brave veterans who made ultimate sacrifice for community and country; and

WHEREAS, Northampton is cognizant of the debt we owe those who died protecting our freedoms and has a long and distinguished commitment of honoring their memory; and

WHEREAS, Since that first Memorial Day 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 153 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 this year, we pay special tribute to those veterans who survived war but sadly lost their lives to the COVID-19 pandemic; and so,

**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 of Northampton on this 31st day of May 2021.



A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'David Narkewicz'.

Mayor David J. Narkewicz