

Proclamation



**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MEMORIAL DAY
May 29, 2017**

- WHEREAS,** Memorial Day each year serves as a solemn reminder of the scourge of war and its bitter aftermath of sorrow; and
- WHEREAS,** this year marks the 100th Anniversary of World War I “The Great War” we remember the men and women who so honorably served during the war to end all wars; and
- WHEREAS,** More than four million American families sent their sons and daughters to serve in uniform during the Great War, including the famous 26th Infantry Division, also known as the “Yankee Division” from Massachusetts and the 104th Infantry Regiment. The 104th from Massachusetts was the first American regiment ever to be decorated by a foreign power for bravery and conduct under fire in France; and
- WHEREAS,** we would like to recognize the thirty-one sons of Northampton who were killed during the Great War: Clifford Ballard, Steven Blasko, Roy Bombard, Patrick Burns, Arthur Clapp, Donald Clark, Benjamin Curtis, Ernesto DiBastiani, John Duggan, George Finn, Irving Finn, Leon Fiske, Louise Fournier, Arthur Guerin, Earl Guerrin, John Hitchcock, Daniel Howard, Frank Johnson, James Manning, Murdo McLeod, Leonard March, Ernest Marriott, William Messer, George Nolan, Frank Spencer, George Squires, Michael St. John, Glasford Strong, Paul Sypnik, Henry will Wood, and we will never forget their sacrifices in the name of freedom; and
- WHEREAS,** After the war, hundreds of Veterans died from their wounds or from tuberculosis and exposure to gas. Many treated right here up on the medical center campus, which was created in 1922 just after Congress had created the nation’s Veterans Bureau – and which would later become today’s VA; 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, 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 this 29th day of May, 2017.


Mayor David J. Narkewicz