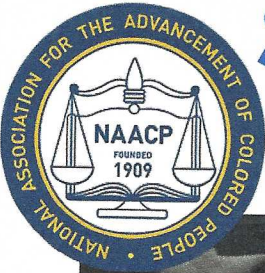
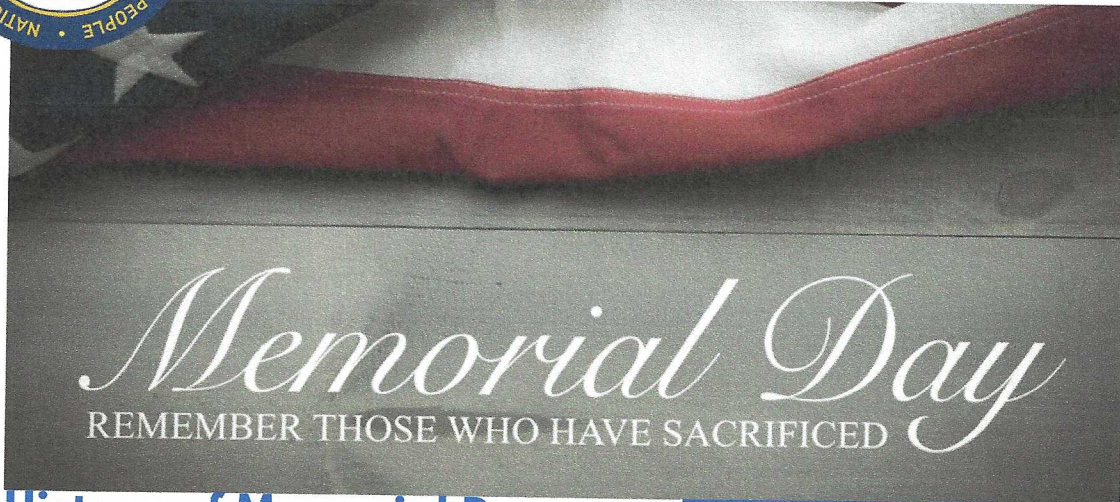


MAY 31, 2021



# SGV-NAACP BRANCH #1066

*Armed Services & Veterans Affairs Committee*



## History of Memorial Day



On May 5th, 1866 a group of former enslaved people, less than one month after the surrender of the Confederacy, organized a gathering in Charleston, SC to decorate the graves of the fallen soldiers in honor of their sacrifice.

In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and moved the Decoration Day, Memorial Day as it was gradually changed to, to the last Monday of the month so that federal employees could have a 3-day weekend and declared Memorial Day as a federal holiday.

Memorial Day is a day to be thoughtful of the sacrifices of those that gave their lives so that we and our neighbors, domestic and abroad can live free. Memorial Day is our chance to help lift that weighted burden off the shoulders of those that sacrificed, to let them know that we remember them and that we appreciate their sacrifice.

At 3:00 pm on Monday (a national moment of remembrance) stop to reflect and honor the lives of those that sacrificed their lives for our Freedom.

ARMED SERVICES & VETERANS  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
LEADERSHIP

**IRMA COOPER, CHAIR**

**MADELINE FERRELL**

**LINDA COLLINS**



MAY 31, 2021



## Poems which reflects the lives sacrificed

### "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae

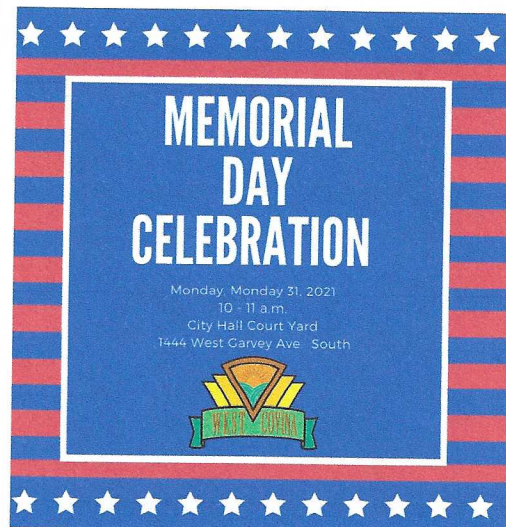
In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

### "We Shall Keep the Faith" by Moina Michael

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,  
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!  
We caught the torch you threw  
And holding high, we keep the Faith  
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor led;  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of hero's never dies,  
But lends a lustre to the red  
Of the flower that blooms above the  
dead  
In Flanders Fields.

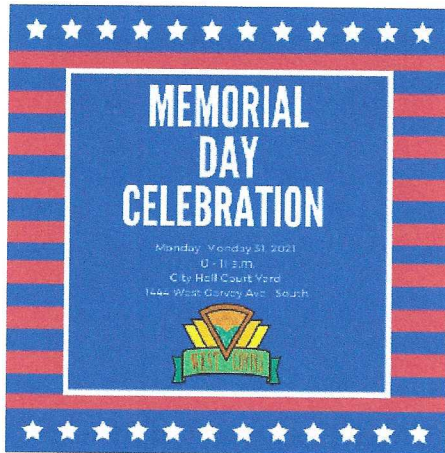
And now the Torch and Poppy Red  
We wear in honor of our dead.  
Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
We'll teach the lessons that ye wrought  
In Flanders Fields.




The Armed Services & Veterans Affairs committee  
wishes you a blessed Memorial Day




# West Covina Memorial Day Celebration-May 31, 2021



| 2021 Memorial Day Program                               |                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Welcome                                                 | Mayor Letty Lopez-Velasco          |
| Pledge of Allegiance                                    | West Covina City Council           |
| National Anthem                                         | Instrumental                       |
| Invocation                                              | Pastor Kelly Dupree, WCPD Chaplain |
| Acknowledgements of Elected Officials and Practitioners | Mayor Letty Lopez-Velasco          |
| Guest Speaker                                           | Erik Melnyk                        |
| Remembering the Fallen                                  | West Covina City Council           |
| Closing                                                 |                                    |



*City of West Covina Veterans Memorial*



**Erik Melnyk**  
West Covina Police  
Department  
(Sergeant, United States Marine Corps)

Officer Erik Melnyk is currently serving and has served the City of West Covina's Police Department for the last 15 years. With the department he carries duties such as Firearms Instructor, Active Shooter Response Instructor, Use of Force/De-escalation Instructor, and serves as a member of the Crisis negotiation team. Officer Melnyk Served in the United States Marine Corps for 4 years from 1999 to 2003 where he achieved the rank of Sergeant (E5) and served in the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment. Officer Melnyk was deployed in Okinawa, Japan from 2001-2002 and was deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003. Officer Melnyk is awarded the Navy Marine Corps Achievement medal, two Coast Guard Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon during his term of service.







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