



## Perris Press Release

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### Memorial Day Ceremony Honors the Sacrifices of Our Armed Forces

More than 100 military veterans, elected officials and Perris residents gathered May 27 to remember the men and women of the armed forces whose lives ended while on duty and to celebrate those who continue serving in far corners of the world today.

The City's annual Memorial Day ceremony, a remembrance that began more than 100 years ago to honor Civil War veterans, is stirring and poignant.

This year's ceremony included laying wreaths on monuments to Korean War and World War II veterans, a three-volley rifle salute, the playing of "Taps" and the roll of names of Perris veterans who have died in the last 12 months.

Master of Ceremonies Joanne Evans, a former Marine and member of the Perris City Council, read the names of those former military men and women who have gone on to "post everlasting" while American Legion Post 595 Chaplain Lyn Durbin struck a bell once as each name was recited.

"Today we remember those who have given their lives in service to this country and those who continue to serve," Evans said. Retired Navy Capt. Quinn Hawley, a former military chaplain, told the assembled crowd that Memorial Day is a time to honor those men and women who by their service "give us our legacy, give us our hope, give us our joys, and give us our freedom."

"We come today to honor those for all they gave their last full measure," Hawley said. Keynote speaker Air Force Col. Dave Pavay recalled the words of President John F. Kennedy, who said "a nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers." Pavay is assigned to the 4th Air Force, which is headquartered at March Air Reserve Base.

Memorial Day, Pavay said, marks the one day each year during which Americans "honor the spirit of all those who died in service to our nation but whom we continue to remember and honor in our hearts."

"A key component of our nation's greatness is to honor, appreciate and cherish, through our actions and our memories, all those who died to ensure our freedom," he said.

Pavay also urged the audience to keep alive the stories of veterans in their families, workplaces and communities so they do not become "unsung heroes." "Find away in your life—at work, at home, at church or a youth group meeting—to keep their memories alive. Honor their sacrifices, tell their stories, cherish their memories."

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch and Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Yarbrough were among those who attended the ceremony. Busch served in the Navy as a teen-ager in the 1950s. Yarbrough's eldest son is an Air Force veteran and his 21-year-old twins are in uniform today.

Busch said the sacrifices of the U.S. military allow Americans to live in peace and freedom. "It's wonderful that we live in such a country that we can honor those who have served our country and those who have lost their lives in that service," he said. "It allows us to do all the things we love to do and take them for granted."

Yarbrough said he considers Memorial Day along with July 4 as the two most important American holidays. "We cannot do enough to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country," he said.



Joanne Evans, master of ceremonies for the annual Perris Memorial Day Service, reads a list of local veterans who have died in the last year as American Legion Post Chaplain Lyn Durbin strikes a bell to honor their memory.



Keynote speaker, U.S. Air Force Col. Dave Pavay, said Americans must keep alive the stories of veterans they know so they will not become "unsung heroes."



Cadets from the California Military Academy provided the Color Guard for the 2013 Memorial Day Service in Perris.