



## Perris Press Release

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### Memorial Day Events Honor Veterans

Perris does not forget its military veterans.

This Memorial Day, as they have since 1946, members of American Legion Post 595 will gather at the Perris Valley Cemetery at 915 North Perris Boulevard to remember veterans who fought for American freedom.

Perris City Councilwoman Joanne Evans, Post 595 Adjunct, will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the event, which begins May 28 at 9 a.m. Those who attend should arrive by 8:30 a.m. so they can be seated.

Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868 when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. In 1971, Congress moved the remembrance to the last Monday in May which provides for a three-day weekend.

“Now a lot of people consider it a barbecue day to start the summer,”

Evans said. “It’s important to



A memorial at the Perris Valley Cemetery honors all U.S. military members—past, present and future. Memorial Day services are scheduled for May 28 at the cemetery.



During the 2011 Memorial Day remembrance, Joanne Evans, a Perris City Councilwoman and member of American Legion Post 595, reads the names of veterans who died in the last year while Post Commander Bernie Foley rings a bell in their honor.

remember our veterans living and dead who helped protect and preserve our freedoms.”

Members of Post 595 have been handing out paper red poppies, the flowers made immortalized in the World War I poem “In Flanders Fields,” which begins: “In Flanders Fields the poppies blow/between the crosses row on row.”

“Wear a poppy to remember our veterans,” Evans said.

Evans said the Perris Valley Cemetery holds the remains of more than 800 veterans, including 13 from the Civil War.

“We continue to hold services in Perris to honor those who gave so much for the freedom of our Country and who are now resting here in Perris,” Evans said. “We invite the public to join with us this special day to honor those who have paid the supreme sacrifice for their country and those who have served and passed on. These are the veterans who served from the Perris Valley when it was a growing community of farmers and businesses. They served during WW I, II, Korea, Vietnam and all our Country’s conflicts. We should never forget them and be forever grateful for what they have done for us.”

Former Perris Mayor Jesse Washington, who has attended every Memorial Day service for more than 25 years, will serve as the keynote speaker.

Students from the California Military Institute will members from Military Honors Team 47 will present colors and honors.

The ceremony also will include the singing of the National Anthem, playing of taps, a three-volley rifle salute and the laying of wreaths by members of Post 595. The names of Perris veterans who have died in the last year will be read and a bell will sound once for each man and woman who has gone to what military members refer to as “Post Everlasting.” The names of Perris men and women serving around the world today also will be read as part of the ceremony.