

Press Release  
City of Perris

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Local Chapter of American Legion and VFW Post Conduct Memorial Day Ceremony**

PERRIS, Calif. (May 28, 2020) — Veterans from the Perris Chapter of the American Legion Post 595 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 888 conducted a small Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 25, 2020 at the Perris Valley Cemetery.

The City of Perris authorized the event, which was conducted in accordance with local guidelines, including social distancing practices and face coverings, and streamed the ceremony on the City's Facebook page. While certainly different than Memorial Day ceremonies of the past, these veterans made sure to still pay their respects to a legacy of fallen heroes.



American Legion Post 595 Commander Tim Moore lead the ceremony and introduced William Baur, District III Chaplain for the VFW for an opening prayer.

Moore then offered remarks about the significance of the day. With tears in his eyes and a somberness in his voice, Moore reminded the few in attendance of what Memorial Day is truly about.

Remembering the fallen, Moore said, “Memorial Day is about the selfless sacrifice of American heroes who raised their right hand to say, ‘It is I, who will defend America, and if needed, lay down my life for those who served.’”

After his brief remarks, Moore then read the names of local heroes, as Bruce Allen of the American Legion Post 595 rang the bell, honoring those who served.

The list of names included:

- Wayne Ellison
- Rick Ricker
- John Thayer
- Rees Bjork'
- Joanne Evans
- Don Coulter



Following the ringing of the bell and hand salute, two wreaths were placed on the memorial's sites. Those carrying the wreaths included William Brown, Commander of VFW Post 858, Lea Bauer VFW Post 888 Auxiliary, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee, Shelly Yarbrough, President American Legion Post 595 and Mark Yarbrough, Commander, Sons of the American Legion. A moment of silence was held, and the ceremony ended.



More than 800 service members are buried in the Perris Valley Cemetery, dating back to the Civil and Spanish-American War. Since 1985, those who passed have been laid to rest in the Riverside National Cemetery.

As the flag swayed at half-staff, those in attendance and those watching online were reminded of heroes who gave their life in service for their country.

The ceremony looked different, but the message was the same: remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. On this day, they were remembered. Gone, but never forgotten.

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