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Perris Memorial Day Remembrance Monday, May 28



Cadets from the California Military Institute in Perris serve as the Color Guard during the 2017 Memorial Day remembrance at the Perris Valley Cemetery. This year's ceremony takes place Monday, May 28, at 8:30 a.m.

Perris Memorial Day Remembrance

When: 8:30 a.m. Monday, May 28

Where: Perris Valley Cemetery, 915 North Perris Blvd.

Program details: Patriot Guard Motorcycle Riders, playing of Taps, reciting roll of Perris veterans who have died in last year.

Keynote Speaker: Altie Holcomb, retired Marine captain

The City of Perris will hold its annual Memorial Day remembrance Monday, May 28, at the Perris Valley Cemetery, 915 North Perris Blvd.

The City has a long military history and the Perris Valley Cemetery marks the final resting place for Americans from the Civil War to the ongoing Global War on Terror.

Retired Marine Capt. Altie Holcomb is this year's Keynote Speaker. Holcomb, a native of Philadelphia, enlisted in the Marines in 1989 and served in the Operation Desert Shield and the Iraq War. He was commissioned as an officer in May 1999 and served as a Logistics Officer, Company Commander, and staff officer including aboard naval ships and at U.S. Central Command.

Upon retirement, Holcomb taught Junior ROTC at Murrieta Valley High School and coached Girls Varsity Basketball. He is married and the father of three children, two currently serving in the Navy.

Holcomb said his keynote remarks will focus on the cost of freedom, which has been paid for by the lives of more than a million Americans who have died since the Revolutionary War. More than 500,000 were killed in the Civil War and another 400,000 died in World War II.

"It's important to remember those who have died for this country and their relatives," Holcomb said. "Americans should never forget there is a cost to the freedom they enjoy."

Mike Weir, commander of American Legion Post 595, said the program also will include the playing of Taps, the reciting of names of Perris veterans who have died in the last year, the appearance of Patriot Guard Motorcycle riders and an invocation by Perris resident and retired Navy Capt. Quinn Hawley, a former military chaplain.

This year's program will be moved up 30 minutes to allow participants to take part in the Memorial Day Service at Riverside National Cemetery, which includes thousands of motorcyclists riding as part of the West Coast Thunder Parade.

Weir's service includes stints totaling about 10 years in the Navy and Air Force. His father served in World War II and the Korean War.

"American history is defined by the men and women who have died for our country," Weir said. "That's why we remember. Memorial Day is not a celebration—it's a remembrance."

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