

## **West Hartford celebrates Memorial Day virtually**

WEST HARTFORD, CT (May 22, 2020) – Each year, West Hartford takes great pride in celebrating Memorial Day with a parade and ceremony. Due to restrictions on social gatherings, both indoor and outdoor, and in an effort to control the spread of the Coronavirus, COVID-19, events for Memorial Day are canceled, but not forgotten.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, West Hartford Community Interactive will air a special virtual Memorial Day ceremony at 10:00 AM, complete with West Hartford Police and Fire color guards, a performance by Amelia Tripp of Hall High School who will sing the National anthem and Anna Siciliano of King Philip Middle School who will play TAPS. Mayor Shari Cantor will provide a special message, Rev. Dana Hallenbeck will give a prayer, and State Sen. Cathy Osten from the 19<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, commander of American Legion Post 85, and an Army veteran, will deliver the keynote address. The ceremony will conclude with a list of West Hartford veterans who have passed away since last Memorial Day. The names will scroll at the end of the program.

All of the elements of this ceremony were filmed separately to keep social distancing by West Hartford Community Interactive. The ceremony will air on Comcast channel 5 and Frontier channel 6098.

In addition, town staff, assisted by members of the American Legion, have placed over 1200 American flags on the graves of West Hartford natives who served our country in one of the armed forces. Typically, the flag planting event draws hundreds of people to Fairview Cemetery on the Saturday before the holiday. But, in an effort to control the spread of the virus, the event has been canceled.

Memorial Day is a holiday in which we honor the more than 1 million men and women who have lost their lives defending America since the Revolutionary War. For West Hartford, 236 brave souls answered the call and paid the ultimate price to defend our nation's freedom since 1776. By remembering them, we honor their service.

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