



419 Richmond Road, Kenilworth, Illinois 60043 • Telephone: 847-251-1666

Village President's Message—Vol. XXXV

May 15, 2020



Ann Potter
Village President

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Village Hall **847-251-1666**

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KENILWORTH'S MEMORIAL DAY

Dear Fellow Residents,

This weekend would have marked Kenilworth's 101st Memorial Day commemoration. I believe it is not just a harbinger of summer but, more importantly, a communal event to honor those who gave their lives for our country and support those who are serving today.

As we all know, traditions and the usual way of gathering together are not possible right now. Leaders of the Scouts, the Kenilworth Club and the Village felt strongly, however, that we should find some way to carry forward our century old observance virtually.

While we won't be parading down Kenilworth Avenue or gathering at Memorial Park this year, I would encourage all to take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices previous generations have made to secure our freedoms and way of life. In addition, the Village, the Scouts, and the Kenilworth Club have put together a video that includes the most important portions of our traditional ceremony. In order to comply with the current executive order limiting gatherings and requiring social distancing, each segment was carried out separately and the individual video components were edited and compiled. The finished video will be posted to several web sites on Sunday after noon. Please go to the Village's web site or YouTube Channel, or the Kenilworth Club's or Park District's web sites to view.

If this pandemic has taught me one thing, it is that there is value in reviewing a practice and considering whether there is a better way to do something. This year the organizers of the event have created banners that will list the names of those who have been killed in action as well as those currently serving. These banners will be placed across from Memorial Park in front of the Kenilworth Assembly Hall and will remain there until our national Memorial Day, both as a reminder of the day and a chance for more citizens to remember those listed. We hope to continue this new addition to the day in future years.

On Sunday, at 2:00, the traditional starting time of our parade, the bells of Holy Comforter Church will peal for 5 minutes. They will then toll 22 times, one toll for each of the Kenilworth residents who was killed in action. If you are within hearing distance of the bells I hope you will use this time to reflect on the meaning

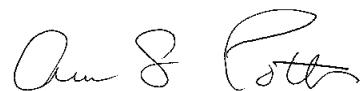
of the day.

This virtual remembrance would not have been possible without the commitment of a number of your fellow residents. Marcus Franklin, the President of the Kenilworth Club, John Hart, the Park District Board Chair and Scout Coordinator, Anne Bird, Scout Leaders, Randy White, Bob Dold, Tom Edson, Peter Ruck, and Leslie Creel all devoted their time and talents to this endeavor. A special thanks goes to Scout Blake Beeler who will film and edit the video.

I spoke at last year's ceremony about how it is voluntarism that holds a citizenry together and gives it the heart and soul that elevates geography to community. I am extremely grateful to those named above for all they have done to make our virtual observance a reality.

I will you all a safe and happy Kenilworth Memorial Day and will look forward to the time when we can again all gather together as a community.

Warmest regards,



Ann