



The Following Information Is **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Editorial Contact**  
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# MEDIA ALERT

## 95<sup>th</sup> Poland Memorial Day Procession and Ceremonies planned



POLAND, OH – Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 is happy to announce that the annual Memorial Day Procession and Ceremonies will be held over Memorial Day weekend, including additional events for 2024.

This year’s events begin with Squadron 15’s Sixth Annual

Memorial Day services at area Briarfield Assisted Living Facilities, as follows:

Friday, May 24, 2024 | 3:00 p.m. | Squadron 15 Memorial Day Service  
The Inn at Christine Valley  
3150 South Schenley Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

Saturday, May 25, 2024 | 2:00 p.m. | Squadron 15 Memorial Day Service  
The Inn at Ironwood  
6699 Ironwood Boulevard  
Canfield, Ohio

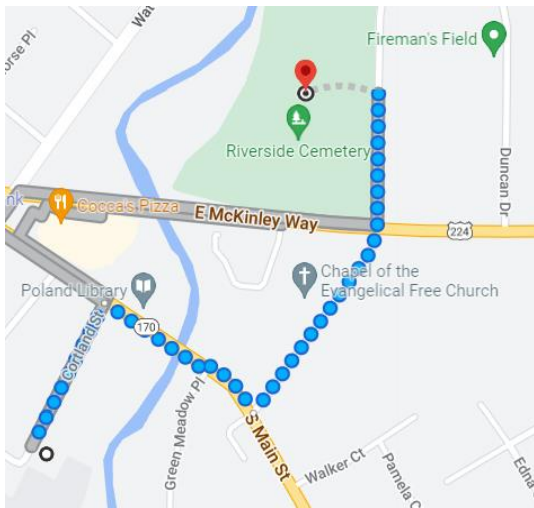
Sunday, May 26, 2024 | 11:00 a.m. | Squadron 15 Memorial Day Service  
The Inn at Glenellen  
9661 Market Street  
North Lima, Ohio

Sunday, May 27, 2024 | 2:00 p.m. | Squadron 15 Memorial Day Service  
The Inn at Poland Way  
6501 Poland Way  
Poland, Ohio

On Saturday, May 25, 2024, at historic Riverside Cemetery, a Flying Flags For Heroes ([www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](http://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com)) ceremony will be held in conjunction with the annual Graves Decoration. Flying Flags For Heroes is a National Service Project implemented by Sons of The American Legion Past National Commander (2021 – 2022) Michael Fox (CA), with a goal of placing at least 1.5 million flags on the graves of veterans this year.

Squadron 15 will place over 1,500 flags, with the Detachment of Ohio committing to place 100,000 flags before the end of August. The public is invited to attend and participate in the decoration of graves. Anyone wishing to assist can meet at the first driveway behind the chapel no later than 8:55 a.m.

At 9:15 a.m. on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, Sons of The American Legion will conduct its annual Four Chaplains ceremony, honoring four military chaplains who gave up their life jackets after their ship, the USS Dorchester was hit by a torpedo and sunk. This event will take place at the War Memorial Building Post 15 home, located at 35 Cortland Street in Poland.



Promptly at 10:00 a.m. the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Procession will step off from the from Post 15, and will travel down College Street, turn right on South Main Street, where a ceremony for those Lost at Sea will take place on the Main Street Bridge.

The Procession will continue on South Main, turning left onto Riverside Drive and into historic Riverside Cemetery for full Memorial Day Ceremonies.

This year's Procession Grand Marshal is United States Air Force Reserve Veteran and Squadron 15 member Anthony E. "Chip" Anderson. The Keynote Speaker will be American Legion Department of Ohio Adjutant John "JD" Robinson. Special Guests for 2024 are Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio Commander Tim Conway, and American Legion Department of Ohio Oratorical Contest State Champion Katie Toepfer. The Chaplain of the Day will be announced in the coming days.

Sons of The American Legion Past National Vice-Commander Jeff Vrabel, Sr. said, "Memorial Day is about remembering our military heroes who made the ultimate and supreme sacrifice to defend our great country. It is a day to recognize them and remember them. Memorial Day is a 'Day of Remembrance.' As ***proud possessors of a priceless heritage***, we will do just that, remember them," he said.

At 10:15 a.m. Squadron 15 is asking musicians, especially those who play trumpet, to go outside, and play *Taps* to honor and remember those lost in defense of our great country. “It’s the least we can do,” Vrabel said. 10:15 a.m. is the approximate time that the ceremony honoring those Lost at Sea will take place on the Main Street Bridge.

It is also especially important for people to fly the American flag, not only on Memorial Day, but every day.



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# MEDIA ALERT

**WHAT:**

**95<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Procession and Ceremonies**

Sponsored by **Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15  
Poland, Ohio**

**WHEN:**

**Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

9:15 a.m.

**Opening Ceremony honoring The Four Chaplains**

*The Four Chaplains - Lt. George L. Fox, Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Lt. John P. Washington, and Lt. Clark V. Poling - unselfishly gave their lifejackets to four others when their ship, the USTA Dorchester, sank after being torpedoed by a German submarine. The Four Chaplains were last seen linked arm in arm, when their ship sank into icy black waters.*

10:00 a.m.

**Memorial Day Procession**

The Procession travels down College Street, right on South Main Street, left on Riverside Drive and into the Riverside Cemetery. A brief ceremony will also be held on the Main Street Bridge in honor of those lost at sea, with a full Memorial Services in Riverside Cemetery. **American Legion Department of Ohio Adjutant John "JD" Robinson** will serve as the Keynote Speaker. **United States Air Force Reserve Veteran and Squadron 15 member Anthony E. "Chip" Anderson** will serve as Procession Grand Marshal. Special Guests are **Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio Commander Tim Conway**, and **American Legion Department of Ohio Oratorical Contest Champion Katie Toepfer**. The Chaplain of the Day will be announced in the coming days.

***Please keep in mind that no commercial and/or political units will be permitted to participate. The throwing of candy during the procession and the distribution of any items along the procession route is also prohibited. This is done as a way of saying we are here today to honor our military dead, and for no other reason. Those doing so will be denied participation or asked to leave by Procession Marshals. This Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 policy will be strictly enforced.***

**WHERE:**

**American Legion Mahoning Valley Post 15**

War Memorial Building Post 15 Home  
35 Cortland Street  
Poland, Ohio 44514

Traveling to

**Historic Riverside Cemetery**

110 Riverside Drive  
Poland, Ohio 44514

The Memorial Day Procession will stop on the Main Street Bridge for a brief ceremony honoring those Lost at Sea.

*In case of inclement weather, Memorial Ceremonies will be held in the Poland Middle School Gymnasium on College Street.*

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**The news media is invited and encouraged to attend**

Any attached flyers are for informational purposes only



**PROUD POSSESSORS  
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**





★ UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ★

POLAND, OHIO

*With Our Deepest Gratitude and Respect*



95th

MEMORIAL DAY

★ PROCESSION & CEREMONIES ★

MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

Four Chaplains Ceremony at 9:15 a.m. at American Legion Post 15 | Procession at 10:00 a.m.  
Memorial Day Ceremonies Follow Procession In Historic Poland Riverside Cemetary

Grand Marshal

Anthony E. "Chip" Anderson  
United States Air Force Reserve  
Veteran

Keynote Speaker

John "JD" Robinson, Adjutant  
The American Legion  
Department of Ohio

Chaplain of the Day

TBA

Special Guest

Tim Conway, Commander  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Ohio



Pledge of Allegiance

Katie Toepfer  
American Legion  
Department of Ohio  
Oratorical Contest Champion

National Anthem

Poland Seminary High School  
Bulldog Marching Band

Reading of the names of  
Poland residents who made  
the supreme sacrifice

Steve Bannon &  
Anthony Traficanti  
Squadron 15 Members

Presented by Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 | Poland, Ohio



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The Following Information Is **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA ALERT**

# Historic Poland Riverside Cemetery Graves Decoration to take place May 25, 2024



POLAND, OH – Graves Decoration at Historic Poland Riverside Cemetery will take place on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Members of American Legion Mahoning Valley Post 15, American Legion Auxiliary Mahoning Valley Unit 15, and Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 will be joined by local Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and youth leadership groups to place over 1,500 flags on the graves of United States Military Veterans.

“It is a great thing to have the Scouts and leadership groups assist in the graves decoration,” said Squadron 15 Commander and Past National Vice-Commander Jeff Vrabel, Sr. “They do a great job. It makes it easier for the veterans who participate because the Scouts get done so quickly. The veterans usually place flags at the start but do more follow-up to make sure no one was missed. The kids really get a lot out of participating and helps promote patriotism and Americanism.” Should a grave be inadvertently missed, flags will be available from Chris Nord at the Cemetery Office.

Family members are asked to have their flag holders in place for the May 25, 2024 Graves Decoration, which will take place rain or shine.

Anyone interested in participating in Graves Decoration at Riverside Cemetery should come to the cemetery by 8:55 a.m. and meet at the first driveway behind the Chapel.

A Flying Flags For Heroes ([www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](http://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com)) ceremony will be held in conjunction with Graves Decoration. Flying Flags For Heroes is a National Service Project implemented by Sons of The American Legion Past National Commander (2021 – 2022) Michael Fox (CA), with a goal of placing at least 1.5 million flags on the graves of veterans. Squadron 15 will place over 1,500 flags, with the Detachment of Ohio committing to place 100,000 before the end of August. The public is invited to attend and participate in the decoration of graves. Anyone wishing to assist can meet at the first driveway behind the chapel no later than 8:55 a.m.



# FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

[www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](http://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com)

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**PROUD POSSESSORS  
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**







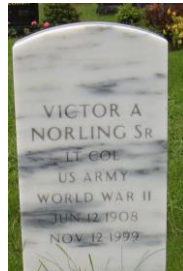
*Honoring Poland's Heroes*

# GRAVES DECORATION

**9:00 a.m.**

**Saturday, May 25, 2024**

**Historic Poland Riverside Cemetery**



Members of American Legion Mahoning Valley Post 15, American Legion Auxiliary Mahoning Valley Unit 15, and Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15, along with the assistance of local Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts, leadership groups, and members of the community will place over 1,500 American Flags on the graves of deceased United States Military Veterans buried in Historic Poland Riverside Cemetery. Graves Decoration will be held Saturday, May 25, 2024 beginning promptly at 9:00 a.m.

Family members of deceased Veterans are reminded to have the Veteran's Flag Holder in place so their loved one can be honored for their service to our country. Anyone wishing to assist with 2024 Graves Decoration should report to the first drive behind the Chapel at Historic Poland Riverside Cemetery no later than 8:55 a.m. Those attending are asked to park on the in the area of the first driveway behind the Chapel. Please do not block any driveways or park on grass, as there are many families in Historic Riverside Cemetery decorating the graves of their loved ones. Flags will be provided.

Should a Veteran's grave be missed, please stop by the Cemetery Office, and see Chris Nord to obtain an American Flag.



**FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES**

[www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](http://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com)



**MAHONING VALLEY SQUADRON 15**  
 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
 POLAND, OHIO



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# Bikes, Convertibles, Classics, and Motorcycles Needed for Poland Memorial Day Procession



POLAND, OH – For this year’s Memorial Day Procession and Memorial Ceremonies in Poland, Ohio, Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 is again asking children of all ages to decorate their bikes in Red, White, and Blue and to ride them in the Procession.

All the children have to do is decorate their bikes and get in line. Procession Marshals will be available to show the bicyclists where to go. Children planning to participate need to be at Baird Mitchell Field with their bikes no later than 9:45 a.m.

Squadron 15 is also asking that anyone owning a convertible or an antique or classic car who is interested in participating in the 2024 Memorial Day Procession and Memorial Ceremonies call (330) 565-5333. Vehicles may be used to drive Grand Marshals, veterans, and other dignitaries along the one-mile procession route. Vehicle owners planning to participate should arrive at Post 15 no later than 9:00 a.m.

Finally, Squadron 15 is asking that anyone owning a motorcycle to participate as well.

The Memorial Day Procession starts at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 29, 2022 at American Legion Mahoning Valley Post 15, and Baird Mitchell Field.

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**MAHONING VALLEY SQUADRON 15**  
 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
 POLAND, OHIO

