



# Memorial Day Service

Pella Memorial Building

Sunday, May 28, 2023

2:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Van Veen-Van Hemert American Legion Post #89

Howard D. Versteegh VFW Post 5242

American Legion Auxiliary #89

## PROGRAM

*Advancement of the Colors .....	Cliff Mulder
*National Anthem .....	Emma Auberg
*Invocation.....	Rob Bandstra
Opening Remarks/Welcome.....	Myron Linn
Recognition of Veterans by Branch.....	Myron Linn
Poem.....“In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae .....	Legion Auxiliary
Legion Auxiliary Report.....	Dixie Roorda
Report of Past Year’s Burials.....	Fallon Burney & Al Naaktgeboren
Special Music “America the Beautiful” .....	Emma Auberg
Song by Audience “God Bless America” .....	Emma Auberg
Introduction of Speaker.....	Emma Auberg
Guest Speaker .....	Barb Kniff McCulla
Presentation of Memorial Wreath.....	Pella Boy Scout Troop 373
Benediction.....	Walter Graham
Rifle Salute to Those Who Died in Battle and to All Deceased Veterans of Past Wars	
*Playing of Taps.....	American Legion Honor Guard/Sergeant at Arms/Don Roorda
*Retirement of Colors.....	Walter Graham

*Thanks to all who participated and helped with this program.*

### GOD BLESS AMERICA

God bless America, land that I love!  
 Stand beside her, and guide her  
 Through the night with a light from above.  
 From the mountains, to the prairies,  
 To the oceans, white with foam!  
 God bless America, my home sweet home.  
 God bless America, my home sweet home!



\*Indicates audience standing

## Membership Transfers of Deceased Veterans

At conclusion of today's ceremony, the memberships of the following veterans will be forwarded from their respective posts to be preserved in memoriam. Memberships of our fallen American Legion members will be officially transferred to the American Legion "Post Everlasting" where they will report to the "Commander of All." The names of our Veterans of Foreign Wars comrades will be forwarded to the VFW Department of Iowa to be enshrined in the "Taps" section of the department newsletter.

Logan Vander Leest (American Legion and VFW)  
Don Frisby (American Legion and VFW)  
John Peterson (American Legion)  
Everett Slagle (American Legion)  
James Steenhoek (American Legion)  
Burton Dean Rankin (American Legion)

### It is Our Honor To Honor

Since the American Legion was founded in 1919, one of its primary activities is to honor our nation's Armed Forces by placing flags on individual veteran's graves and along the primary avenues of local cemeteries during our nation's patriotic holidays.

After today's ceremony, the names, ranks, branch of service, and burial location of last year's fallen veterans will be forwarded to the Marion County Dept of Veteran's Affairs Office to procure an appropriate metal marker and flagholder for the veteran's gravesite. If you are aware of any omissions or inaccuracies presented today, please notify an American Legion board member to make the appropriate correction.

Once a veteran's grave receives a marker identifying their service, the grave will be marked by a small US Flag provided by the County Dept of Veteran's Affairs. Typically, local veterans' organizations place these flags the weekend before Memorial Day. Although the smaller flags remain in place throughout the summer season, the full-sized flags are removed and secured after each holiday. This process, scheduled by the American Legion, occurs every Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veteran's Day.

Few are aware of the scope of the task in memorializing our veterans in this small but meaningful way. As of this Memorial Day, small flags were placed on 734 individual graves at Oakwood Cemetery and 129 graves at Graceland. In addition, 29 miniature flags were placed at Porter Grove cemetery, 29 at T'Lam, 14 at St. Mary's and 5 were placed at Sandridge Cemeteries in Marion County.

The public is invited to participate in placing and removing the 1,000+ full-size and small flags at cemeteries throughout our community. Those wishing to honor a veteran with a full-size flag along the entrance corridors can dedicate a flag by contacting the American Legion Sergeant at Arms (Don Roorda at email: [HG1@vanveen-vanhemert-post89.org](mailto:HG1@vanveen-vanhemert-post89.org)). Contact any legion member for the next date of flag-raising or removal (as published in the monthly American Legion Newsletter).

The American Legion and VFW would like to thank their membership and family members, as well as auxiliary, scouts and cadet organizations who have participated in any part of flag placement or removals in honor of our fallen comrades.