



Hello,

I would like to call your attention to an event to be held on Armed Forces Day (May 21, 2011) in Hampden County Massachusetts to honor the memory of Medal of Honor recipients whose final resting place is within the county. The American Legion Family together with other veteran's service organizations in the area have planned a tribute ride to and from each of these gravesites with a collation to follow. The attached documents contain the specific details.

As an FYI, Hampden County has a rich history with the Medal of Honor. We are the final resting place of seven recipients and six more entered the service from the county but are buried elsewhere.

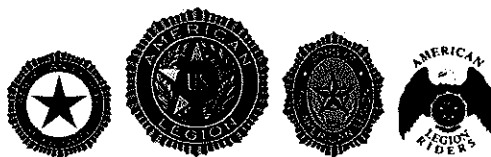
It is our obligation to "never forget". As a stand-alone event, this will be an effective way to accomplish that goal. With it occurring a week before Memorial Day, we hope the added bonus is an increased awareness of the upcoming holiday to the general public. If you also feel this obligation to honor these heroes, we invite you to join us for the whole ride or any portion that is convenient for your schedule.

Whether or not you can join us on May 21st, PLEASE take a moment to thank all of the veterans who have sacrificed so much for the freedoms we enjoy every day. We would appreciate if you shared this information with anyone you know who might be interested.

*"They fell, but o'er their glorious grave
Floats free the banner of the cause they died to save."
~Francis Marion Crawford*

Thank You,

Jennifer Hamre, Historian
Hampden County Council District 3
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Massachusetts



Hampden County Commemorative Tour

“They Rest With Honor”



*"For Conspicuous Gallantry and Intrepidity in Action
At the Risk of Life Above and Beyond the Call of Duty"*

Join us as we honor the seven gravesites of
Medal of Honor recipients in Hampden County

May 21st, 2011 – 10:00 AM

** times are approximate based on 15 minute ceremony at each site and expected travel time **

10:00 Cpl. Edward G Wilkin

Longmeadow Cemetery, 30 Barbara Lane, Longmeadow, Ma

10:30 Sgt. Edwin Leonard

The White Church Cemetery, White Church Hill, West Springfield, Ma

11:00 Cbm. John MacKenzie

Forest Dale Cemetery, 304 Cabot St, Holyoke, Ma

11:35 Sgt. Charles H. Tracy

Fairview Cemetery, 165 Front St, Chicopee, Ma

12:00 Cpl. John Walsh

St. Benedicts Cemetery, Liberty St, Springfield, Ma

12:25 Cpl. Charles H. Knight

Oak Grove Cemetery, 426 Bay St, Springfield, Ma

12:50 Sgt. Andrew Symmes Bryant

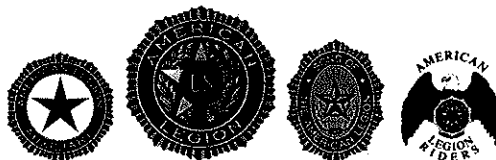
Springfield Cemetery, 171 Maple St, Springfield, Ma

The day will conclude with a collation at the Springfield GAR Hall

68 Court St, Springfield, Ma at 1:10 pm

Commemoration sponsored by the American Legion Family and the following Service Organizations:

Springfield Veterans Activities Committee Inc., Springfield Vets Center



Medal of Honor Tribute

10:00 **Cpl. Edward G. Wilkin**

Longmeadow Cemetery, Williams St., Longmeadow, MA

(15 min ceremony + 15 min drive)

- 1 Head **west** on **Williams St** toward **Longmeadow St**
- 2 Turn **right** onto **US-5 N/Longmeadow St**
Continue to follow US-5 N
- 3 Take the ramp onto **I-91 N/US-5 N**
- 4 Take exit **3** to merge onto **US-5 N/South End Bridge** toward **MA-57/W Springfield**
Continue to follow US-5 N
- 5 Turn **left** onto **E Elm St**
- 6 Turn **left** onto **Elm St**

10:30 **Sgt. Edwin Leonard**

The White Church Cemetery, Witch Path, West Springfield, MA

(15 min ceremony + 15 min drive)

- 1 Head **north** on **Elm St** toward **Kings Hwy**
- 2 Turn **right** onto **E Elm St**
- 3 Turn **left** onto **Riverdale St**
- 4 Continue onto **Main St**
- 5 Continue onto **Ingleside St**
- 6 Continue onto **Northampton St**
- 7 Turn **right** onto **Dwight St**
- 8 Turn **right** onto **Poplar St**
- 9 Continue onto **Cabot St**

11:00 **Cbm. John MacKenzie**

Forest Dale Cemetery, 304 Cabot St., Holyoke, MA

(15 min ceremony + 20 min drive)

- 1 Head **southeast** on **Cabot St** toward **Locust St**
- 2 Continue onto **Chicopee St**
- 3 Turn **right** to stay on **Chicopee St**
- 4 Turn **right** onto **Front St**
- 5 Take the 1st **left** onto **Cabot St**
- 6 Take the 1st **left** onto **Exchange St**
- 7 **Exchange St** turns slightly **right** and becomes **Springfield St**
- 8 Turn **left** onto **Fairview Ave**
- 9 Turn **right** onto **Rzasa Dr**

10 Take the 1st left onto **Fanjoy Dr**

11:35 Sgt. Charles H. Tracy

Fairview Cemetery, Fanjoy Dr., Chicopee, MA

(15 min ceremony + 10 min drive)

- 1 Head **east** on **Fanjoy Dr** toward **Armory Dr**
- 2 Turn **right** onto **Armory Dr**
- 3 Turn **right** onto **Broadway St**
- 4 Continue onto **Liberty St**
- 5 Slight **left** to stay on **Liberty St**
- 6 Turn **left** to stay on **Liberty St**
- 7 Take the 1st **left** onto **Armory St**

12:00 Cpl. John Walsh

St. Benedicts Cemetery, Armory St., Springfield, MA

(15 min ceremony + 10 min drive)

- 1 Head **north** on **Armory St**
- 2 Slight **left** to stay on **Armory St**
- 3 Slight **left** onto **Liberty St**
- 4 Turn **left** to stay on **Liberty St**
- 5 Turn **right** onto **Armory St**
- 6 Slight **left** onto **Magazine St**
- 7 **Magazine St** turns **left** and becomes **Bay St**

12:25 Cpt. Charles H. Knight

Oak Grove Cemetery, 426 Bay St., Springfield, MA

(15 min ceremony + 10 min drive)

- 1 Head **southwest** on **Bay St** toward **Cambridge St**
- 2 Turn **left** onto **Magazine St**
- 3 Continue onto **Oak St**
- 4 Slight **left** onto **Walnut St**
- 5 Turn **right** onto **Pine St**
- 6 Turn **right** onto **Cedar St**
- 7 Turn **right** onto **Central St**
- 8 Continue onto **Maple St**

12:50 Sgt. Andrew Symmes Bryant

Springfield Cemetery, 171 Maple St., Springfield, MA

(15 min ceremony + 5 min drive)

- 1 Head **northwest** on **Maple St** toward **Avon Pl**
- 2 Turn **left** onto **State St**
- 3 Turn **right** onto **E Columbus Ave**

1:10 Collation

GAR Hall, 68 Court St., Springfield, MA