

Memorial Day and Flag Day

Compiled by Marian G. Rogers, May 2005

www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/pubs/tapthepower.htm

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, is May 30. The day is set aside to honor members of America's armed forces who lost their lives in wartime. In Wisconsin, Memorial Day was declared a legal holiday by Chapter 146, Laws of 1879. It was declared a national holiday by Congress in 1971, to be observed on the last Monday in May. The traditional recognition of Memorial Day is to decorate the graves of war dead with American flags.

"The Grand Army of the Republic" / Hosea W. Rood, *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, v. VI, 1922-23, p. 403-413. (HistS/w/1922-23) (noncirculating) History of the inauguration of Memorial Day (1868); includes General Order, no. 11 (May 5, 1868) by John J. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the GAR.

***History Just Ahead: A Guide to Wisconsin's Historical Markers* / Sarah Davis McBride, editor, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1999. (977.5/W7t1)** See index for entries under "military history" and "veterans."

***Public Sculpture in Wisconsin: An Atlas of Outdoor Monuments, Memorials & Masterpieces in the Badger State* / Anton Rajer and Christine Style, 1999. (352.585/R13)** Hundreds of illustrations and text showcase the rich collection of public sculpture in Wisconsin. "There are more than seven hundred statues and memorials in Wisconsin. Nearly 35 percent are associated with the services and contributions of state veterans." — p. 9.

***Subject Bibliography of Wisconsin History* / Leroy J. Schlinkert, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1947. (HistS/s) (noncirculating)** See sections *The Civil War*, especially "Regimental Histories and Personal Records," and *Other Wars*.

"Tuition Vouchers for Sounding 'Taps': 2003 Wisconsin Act 42" / Wisconsin Legislative Council, *Act Memo*, August 15, 2003. Program which grants a \$25 voucher to students sounding "taps" at a military honors funeral.

www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/lc_act/act042-ab074.pdf

"Veterans Day" / Patricia Helgerson, Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, *Tap The Power*, November 2004. (LRB/t) (noncirculating) Print and electronic resources spotlighting veterans history, organizations, benefits and services, and women veterans. Prepared as a Veterans Day activities and speeches resource, it is also an excellent compilation of veteran information.

www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/pubs/ttp-11-2004.html

Wisconsin's Gold Star List: Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Nurses From the Badger State Who Died in the Federal Service During the World War / John Goadby Gregory, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1925. (977.5/W7i4)

"Wisconsin's Military Establishment: Its Organization and Operation" / *Wisconsin Blue Book: 1962*, p. 69-265. (328.3/W7c/1962) Feature article written on the occasion of the Civil War Centennial.

- p. 72-180, *Wisconsin and the Civil War*, Frank L. Klement.
- p. 181-188, *Wisconsin in World War I*.
- p. 189-198, *Wisconsin in World War II*.
- p. 199-206, *The Adjutant General*.
- p. 207-219, *The Wisconsin National Guard*.
- p. 219-220, *Congressional Medal of Honor: Wisconsin Winners*.
- p. 251-258, *Wisconsin Military Manpower*.
- p. 259-265, *Civil Defense in Wisconsin*.

"Wisconsin's War Activities" / with an introduction by Governor E. L. Philipp, *Wisconsin Blue Book: 1919*, p. 301-438. (328.3/W7c/1919) Fascinating details on Wisconsin and Wisconsinite participation in war activities. Text describing activities of specific military groups is supported by lists of names, affiliations by county, and other historical tables. Contains more details than would be found in current day publications.

FLAG DAY

The idea of celebrating the flag originated in 1885 when Wisconsin school teacher B. J. Cigrand and his students observed the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of the "Stars and Stripes" as "Flag Birthday." In May 1916, President Woodrow Wilson officially established Flag Day – the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777. On August 3, 1949, President Harry Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 as National Flag Day.

Dedication of a Memorial to Bernard J. Cigrand, "The Father of Flag Day" – at Waubesa, Wisconsin on Flag Day, June 14, 1946 and Sunday, June 16, 1946 / [1946?]. (389.72/W35)

"Flag Day, 1940" / Charles Merz, *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, v. 35, no. 3, Spring 1952, p. 209. (HistS/w/1950-52) (noncirculating) Poignant editorial which appeared in the *New York Times* on June 14, 1940.

Memorial Day and Flag Day Continued

“Flag Day Was Born in Wisconsin” / State Historical Society of Wisconsin, *To Answer Your Questions About Wisconsin*, [1979?]. (977.5/W7a8/pt. 6) Two-page information sheet on the history of Flag Day.

“National Flag Day Originated in Wisconsin” / State Historical Society of Wisconsin, *Badger History*, v. 1, no. 8, May 1948, p. 9. (HistS/b/v. 1-2/1947-49) (noncirculating)

***Our Flag* / U.S. Joint Committee on Printing, House Document 100-247, 1989. (342.39/X5)** Published on the 175th anniversary of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” this publication describes the history and practices for flag display. Color illustrations also include images of flags of the states.

RELATED WEB SITES

Memorial Day

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/may30.html>

American Memory: Today in History, May 30, Library of Congress – “American Memory” serves as a gateway to the vast resources of the Library of Congress. This portion of “American Memory” highlights images and text of resources related to Decoration Day, otherwise known as Memorial Day.

www.findagrave.com/ Find A Grave – “Find the graves of ancestors, create virtual memorials, and ‘virtual flowers’ and a note to a loved one’s grave, etc.”— Web page.

www.firstgov.gov/Topics/Memorial_Day.shtml FirstGov.gov for citizens: “Memorial Day”

www.thehighground.org/ The Highground (Neillsville, WI) – A 140-acre memorial park that began as a Vietnam veteran memorial and has expanded to include memorials to other wars, Native Americans, women, MIAs, POWs, and the families left behind.

www.usmemorialday.org Memorial Day – “This site was created to help promote the return of the original intent and meaning back to Memorial Day, to be a central point for finding information on the day, and to provide an online community for people to share their feelings, pride, respect and honor for those that gave their all.”— Web page.

www1.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/index.htm Memorial Day, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Dedicated to those who have “...given their lives in defense of freedom while serving as members of the armed forces.” — Web page

www.waterborolibrary.org/memday.htm “Memorial Day Resources,” Waterboro (ME) Public Library

www.cr.nps.gov/military.htm
Military History, U.S. National Park Service

www.army.mil/cmh-pg/faq/memday/MD-Dev.htm
“Origins of Memorial Day,” United States Army

www.usmemorialday.org/taps.html “Taps” information – Origin, popular verses, and audio samples.

http://dva.state.wi.us/Forms/WDVA_2802_Taps_Voucher.pdf
“Taps” Tuition Voucher/Fee form, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

www.wilegion.org Wisconsin American Legion – Click “Web Links” for “Memorial and Tribute Sites”

<http://dva.state.wi.us/Memorials.asp> Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Catalog, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs – Links to memorial sites in Wisconsin, the U.S., the world.

Flag Day

www.ushistory.org/betsy/ Betsy Ross Homepage – Links to Flag Code, Flag Rules and Regulations (includes animated flag folding graphic), and Flag Timeline.

www.flagday.org/Pages/PausePage.html
National Flag Day Foundation, Inc.

www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/history/stoneyhill.html
Stony Hill Schoolhouse Flag Day (Ozaukee County, WI) – The Stony Hill Schoolhouse in the Town of Fredonia was the site of the first Flag Day exercises by B. J. Cigrand and his students.

Purchase a U.S. flag flown over the nation’s capitol:

www.pueblo.gsa.gov/call/us_flag.htm

Purchase U.S. or Wisconsin flags:

- Wisconsin Assembly Chief Clerk –
www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/acc/purchasflags.htm
- Wisconsin Senate Chief Clerk – phone: (608) 266-1803

Clippings: (Noncirculating; available for use in the library; clippings prior to 1981 are on microfiche)

- **Legal Holidays: 389.72/Z** News clips on legal holidays, including Flag and Memorial Days. On microfiche through 1970.
- **National flag, anthem, motto, emblems, etc.: 342.39/Z** On microfiche through 1970.
- **War Memorials: 355.9/Z** On microfiche through 1980.