

# City of Auburn, Maine

Office of the Mayor



## **AUBURN RESIDENTS AND OUR NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

Decoration Day remembrance ceremony to be held at Oak Hill Cemetery on Monday, May 27, 2013 at 12:00noon. Meet at the top of the cemetery (7<sup>th</sup> Street entrance), near the large flag pole. Members of the American Legion William J Rogers Post 153, the Alden M Gayton Post 31, the Veterans of Foreign War, Capt. Frank W. Hulett, post 1603, and City of Auburn officials will be holding a Memorial Day Service on Monday May 27th at 12:00 Noon.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day. It is more likely that it had many separate beginnings; each of those towns and every planned or spontaneous gathering of people to honor the war dead in the 1860's tapped into the general human need to honor our dead, each contributed honorably to the growing movement that culminated in Gen Logan giving his official proclamation in 1868.

It is not important who was the very first, what is important is that Memorial Day was established. Memorial Day is not about division. It is about reconciliation; it is about coming together to honor those who gave their all; and that is why we are all working together for this special community ceremony service.

“Let’s be honest” stated American Legion Commander Paul R. Bernard,” the traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years we all have witnessed this in our communities. Many Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. At many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored, and neglected. Most people no longer remember the proper flag etiquette for the day. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, many have not held a parade in decades. Some people think the day is for honoring any and all dead, and not just those fallen in service to our country. “

This ceremony would be excellent for the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and all of our youth to appreciate the sacrifices of our Veterans who have passed. Auburn Mayor Jonathan P. LaBonté, the President of the Gold Star Mothers Bethel Shields, Roger Renaud, and others will take part. A Wreath of Remembrance will be laid by Lisa Bonenfant and Claire Poirier and canons will be fired by Keith Davis. All friends and families are encouraged to attend.