

MANAGER'S DESK FOR MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020

WELCOME TO THE MANAGER'S DESK, I'M MIKE CORNELL.

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY. General John A. Logan organized the first national celebration to honor America's fallen heroes on May 30, 1868. The Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic hoped "Decoration Day" would help improve the strained relations between the Northern and Southern states following the end of the American Civil War (1861-1865). Logan marked the occasion by placing American flags and flowers on the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Memorial Day celebrations usually involve parades, flag ceremonies, and other formal public recognitions to honor the brave men and women of the American Armed Forces who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. However, the COVID-19 pandemic social distancing requirement is causing American cities and towns to cancel the beloved traditions and find new ways to honor their fallen heroes. Here are a few innovative festivities planned for the holiday, which will be observed on May 25, 2020.

The American Legion Post 184 in Wildwood, New Jersey, has partnered with the local police and fire department to stage a drive-by parade. On Sunday, May 24, 2020, the first responders will drive through the town and also pass by the homes of residents who have signed up to participate in the event. Locals can also enter a contest to create a patriotic scene around their home. The winner of the display, which will be judged by the police and firefighters, will win a \$100 Visa gift card.

The residents of Illinois's DuPage County will celebrate the occasion by sharing stories, photos, and memories to honor loved ones or friends on a new interactive website created by the officials. The site will also include poems, quotes, and videos.

Meanwhile, in Coronado, California, the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization plans to create a televised version of its popular Memorial Day tribute, held annually at the city's Star Park. The half-hour program, which will be aired on local television stations on May 25, 2020, will include clips from past Star Park presentations, as well as pay tribute to local military personnel who have died in the line of duty.

I HOPE YOU'VE BEEN ENJOYING THE PATRIOTIC MUSIC PLAYED THIS WEEKEND. AND DON'T FORGET THE MEMORIAL DAY HOUR LONG RADIO SPECIAL PRODUCED BY THE PUBLIC SQUARE THAT AIRS THIS AFTERNOON AT 3:00 PM.

AND TO ALL OF THE FAMILIES WHO HAVE SUFFERED THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE WHILE SERVING OUR COUNTRY, MAY WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE MADE FOR US.

OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS: WRVM, PO BOX 212, SURING WI, 54174

OR GIVE ONLINE AT WWW.WRVM.ORG.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME FOR THE MANAGER'S DESK, I'M MIKE CORNELL.