



The Richard H. Stewart, Jr.
American Legion Post # 543
St. James, NC 28461
May 29, 2017

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St James Post 543 2017 Memorial Day Ceremony



Over 350 people gathered at 11:00 AM on Monday, May 29, as the Richard H. Stewart, Jr. American Legion Post 543 held its annual Memorial Day ceremony in front of the Veterans Memorial at the St. James Town Hall. Post Commander Gary Crowden welcomed the crowd before turning the program over to Memorial Day Committee Chairman Bill Morgan.

The Post 543 Color Guard presented the colors. Lois Moore sang the National Anthem. Post Chaplain Jimmie Perryman gave the Invocation. Mike Fegan, the Post's 2nd Vice Commander, presented the history of Memorial Day. Morgan then described how the beautiful Veterans Memorial had been built and recognized the Veterans Memorial Committee members for their work in its creation.



Morgan then introduced U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Karen Beirne-Flint and Chief Master Sergeant Shane Flint as the guest speakers. Both are on active duty serving on the U.S. Air Force and have achieved the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force, Chief Master Sergeant.

Two memorial wreaths were presented. The first, by Commander Crowden and World War II Veteran Bob Baddicich. A second wreath was presented by Shane and Karen Flint and Karen's father Tom Beirne in memory of Karen's teammates who were lost in operations in Afghanistan. After the wreaths were placed, bugler Ray Clemen sounded Taps.



Lois Moore then lead the audience in singing God Bless America and Chaplain Perryman offered the benediction. The audience then retired to enjoy light refreshment at the Community Center.