



**LAURENCE W. GAY POST 55
AMERICAN LEGION
P.O. BOX 755
GROTON, MA 01450
Joseph Fischetti, Commander**

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE INFORMATION

Groton's annual Memorial Day observance will be held on Monday 28 May and will consist of a parade with ceremonies at the Main Street Common, Old Burying Ground, Groton Cemetery, and Sawyer Common. As always the parade honors veterans of ALL wars. We would like to invite ALL veterans to join us, whether in uniform or not. Veterans who wish to participate but are unable to march are asked to contact Dave Elliott at (978)448-6303 to arrange a ride in one of the vehicles in the parade.

Our Grand Marshall and primary speaker this year is Lt. Col. Gregory Grunwald, Operations Officer of the 25th Marine Regiment. We will be joined at the Cemetery again this year by the Granite Statesmen Barbershop Chorus, 12-time Northeast District champions of the Barbershop Harmony Society [you can visit their web site at <http://granitestatesmen.org/> for more information about this group].

We will assemble on the grass of Legion Common at 8:30 AM with each unit gathering between numbered signs on the common and the Old Burying Ground. The order and sign number are in the separate "Order of March".

At 8:50 AM the Groton Police Department will close School Street and all units will move into the street, retaining the order established on the Common, and we will start the parade promptly at 9:00 AM. Parade vehicles and their riders will meet on the north side of School Street in front of Badger Funeral Home at 8:45 AM -- drivers are asked to be in place absolutely no later than 8:40 AM. The parade will proceed out to Main Street, return to Legion Hall, move on to the Groton Cemetery with a stop at the Sawyer Common enroute, and return to Legion Hall. While we never know for sure how long the parade will take, we are usually back at Legion Hall by about 11:15 AM.

Parking will be a problem for participants and spectators alike -- **THERE WILL BE NO PARKING ANYWHERE ON THE PARADE ROUTE WHICH INCLUDES ABSOLUTELY ALL THE STREETS AROUND LEGION HALL!** We are asking everyone who can walk or carpool to do so. Participants are requested to try to park outside the parade route and leave the lot behind the Boutwell School for veterans and participants with heavy or bulky equipment such as guns or large musical instruments. Available areas outside the parade route include Sacred Heart Church lot [NOT on West Street next to the church], medical offices and bank parking lots on Main Street beyond Sacred Heart Church, Willowdale Road [includes block between Main and Hollis Streets -- this block will be closed] and Main Street EAST of Hollis Street

Anybody who NEEDS close-in parking is asked to contact Parade Adjutant Bob Johnson at (617)513-4484 who will try to coordinate space. I will be wearing a Legion uniform with blue-and-gold "rope" on my left shoulder at the parade. Any questions on the day of the parade should be directed to me. In the event of questionable weather on Monday, LEADERS of units are asked to call my office phone (978)448-1175 after 6:15 AM [answering machine will be updated with a message indicating parade status] and then get the word out to your group. Our inclement weather plan calls for wreath-laying ceremonies by a small group of veterans and fire-fighters -- all other activities will be cancelled.

Sincerely,

Bob Johnson

Bob Johnson,
Parade Adjutant
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