



**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
Cell (617)513-4484
rcjcommon43@aol.com



**MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY, MAY 28, 2012
EXERCISE AT THE MOUND**

DEDICATION

70th Anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal
Special Remembrance for USMC Sgt. William
Woitowicz

INTRODUCTION

Joseph Fischetti
Commander, Laurence W. Gay Post #55

MEMORIAL PRAYER

Rev. Paul Ring
Pastor, Our Lady of Grace Parish

FLORAL DECORATIONS

REVOLUTIONARY WAR	WAR OF 1812
MEXICAN WAR	CIVIL WAR
SPANISH / AMERICAN WAR	WORLD WAR I
WORLD WAR II	KOREA
VIET NAM	LEBANON / GRENADA
PANAMA	DESERT STORM
SOMALIA	THE BALKANS
AFGHANISTAN	IRAQ
SGT. WILLIAM WOITOWICZ, USMC	

MEMORIAL ADDRESS

Lt. Col. Gregory Grunwald
Operations Officer, 25th Marine Regiment

RIFLE VOLLEY SALUTE

Groton Minutemen Company

TAPS

Groton Marching Band and Chowder Society

NATIONAL ANTHEM
AND
GOD BLESS AMERICA

Granite Statesmen Barbershop Chorus

**ORDER OF MARCH
GROTON MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

28 MAY 2012



1. **GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT** [sign #1]
Chief Palma
2. **U.S. MARINE CORPS COLOR GUARD** [sign #2]
3. **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE** [sign #3 to 4]
3. **GROTON AMERICAN LEGION POST # 55** [sign #5]
Joseph Fischetti, Commander
4. **OTHER VETERANS** [sign #6]
5. **VETERANS IN CARS**
David Elliot, Coordinator
6. **GROTON MINUTEMEN COMPANY** [sign #8 to 10]
George Brouillette, Acting President
7. **STATE AND TOWN OFFICIALS** [signs #11]
Groton Board of Selectmen
8. **GIRL SCOUT TROOPS** [Cadettes, Juniors, Brownies, Dasies] [signs #13 to #20]
Judy Durling, Coordinator
9. **BOY SCOUT TROOPS** [signs #22 to #25]
10. **CUB SCOUT PACKS** [signs #27 to #30]
11. **GROTON MARCHING BAND AND CHOWDER SOCIETY** [signs #33 to #36]
12. **GROTON FIRE DEPARTMENT** [sign #38]
Chief Bosselait
13. **FIRE TRUCK**
Groton Fire Department



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28 May 2012

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE 2012 PARADE PARKING

When the annual Memorial Day parade was rerouted several years ago with a new starting/ending point, most aspects of the parade were improved but one major issue developed: **PARKING!** The previous start point on Station Avenue offered a number of parking options including Court Street, the Electric Light Department and Buckingham Bus lots, the town hall and (then) Bank Boston lots, and both sides of Main Street east of Station Avenue. The downside was that the parade route was several blocks longer and everyone had to walk several blocks back to their cars. The new route means we start and end at the same point and we do not have children and other participants trying to cross a very busy Main Street, but parking is **EXTREMELY LIMITED** in the area around Legion Hall. **ALL streets along the parade route MUST BE KEPT CLEAR** to avoid situations where pedestrians, especially small children, suddenly appear from between parked cars.

We are asking you to begin discussing transportation and parking needs with your group now so we can minimize the parking issue. There are several areas where parade participants and spectators can help with parking.

1. Please ask all of your participants who are able to walk to and from the Legion Hall area are asked to do so -- a substantial number of the veterans walk to and from the parade, even a number of World War II veterans who are in their 80's!
2. Please ask other participants in your group to carpool wherever possible so that we minimize the number of vehicles needing parking spaces -- if carpooling from your homes is not feasible, please consider something along the lines of dropping participants at Legion Hall, driving to a more remote lot like the high school, and carpooling the drivers back to the Legion Hall area.
3. If equipment such as flags, instruments, or rifles are involved, please try to arrange something along the lines of item number 2 to help minimize the parking requirements in the Legion Hall area -- one of the bands in last year's parade planned on its own to park and meet at the Sacred Heart church parking lot and EVERYBODY walked to Legion Hall.

4. If some of your participants are unable to walk from a distant parking area due to medical or other concerns, please try to arrange rides from distant parking areas to drop them off at Legion Hall with a driver taking the car to a distant lot and walking back -- some of our veterans fall into this category due to age and/or war wounds and they generally get rides from other participants.

We understand fully that not everyone can make arrangements to avoid driving to and from the parade but the more help your group can provide, the easier the parking situation will become. Your assistance and cooperation in this area will be greatly appreciated and will contribute greatly to maximizing participation in the Memorial Day parade while maintaining the safest of environments for everyone involved.

Sincerely,

Bob Johnson

**Bob Johnson,
Parade Adjutant
(978)448-1175 [Groton Veterans' Services
Officer line]
rcjcommon43@aol.com**



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28 May 2012

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
2012 PARADE ROUTE**

The parade will form on School Street facing southwest and proceed out to Main Street, turn left, and stop SURROUNDING the common at the Firemen's Memorial. A brief ceremony will be conducted before continuing easterly to Hollis Street. The parade will then turn left onto Hollis Street and proceed north to stop in front of Legion Hall, occupying BOTH the Legion Hall driveway AND Hollis Street. A ceremony will be conducted by the Groton Minuteman Company at the Old Burial Ground, honoring veterans of the Revolutionary War.

The parade will then reform on Hollis Street and School Street and proceed north on Hollis Street to the Sawyer Memorial Common where Martins Pond Road intersects with Hollis Street, and stop SURROUNDING the common. A brief ceremony will be held, honoring the Korean War and Viet Nam War veterans.

Upon completion of the special ceremony, the parade will proceed north on Hollis Street, marching to Groton Cemetery at the convergence of Chicopee Row, Longley Road, and Blossom Lane.

At the cemetery, a special ceremony "Exercise at the Mound" will be conducted, honoring veterans of several wars.

Following the ceremony in the cemetery, the parade will form at the cemetery entrance and proceed south on Hollis Street, turn right onto School Street, and turn left to pass in front of Legion Hall. The parade will then disband behind Legion Hall.

Refreshments will be served by the Laurence W. Gay Post #55 Auxiliary and Girl Scout Troop 62018 as well as other participating groups.