



THE PLAGIARIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF GLENDALE, NEW YORK

OUR EDITORS, PAST AND PRESENT:

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Meeting Notice for June 6, 2024



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Editor's Note: A week in sunny Florida was just what the doctor ordered. This week's newsletter was written by DPLG Kerrie Hansen. Enjoy. -BK

President Ingrid opened the meeting on time. Karen Kramer led the Club in a beautiful prayer. The Club proceeded with the Pledge and our patriotic song (Thank you, Paul). President Ingrid announced all the dignitaries.

The guests in the house included Pres Ingrid's daughter Claudia (future Glendale Kiwanis President), DPLG Kerrie Hansen's beautiful mother, Pat Maher, and Vinny Arcuri's aide Marie.

Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, has a rich history and has undergone changes over time.

Origins of Memorial Day:

The holiday originated from the American Civil War, which claimed the lives of more than 600,000 service members (both Union and Confederate) between 1861 and 1865. It wasn't uncommon for different states to declare different dates (i.e. April 28, May 10, June 5)

The first national observance of what was then called Decoration Day occurred on **May 30, 1868**. An organization of Union veterans called for decorating war graves with flowers, which were in bloom at that time.

Waterloo, New York, is often proclaimed as the holiday's birthplace due to its formal observance on **May 5, 1866**. However, other places like Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, and even some Confederate states had similar practices before the war's end.

Changing the Date:

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on **May 30**, the date General Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. In **1968**, Congress passed the **Uniform Monday Holiday Act**, which established Memorial Day as the **last Monday in May**. This change aimed to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The new date went into effect in **1971**, shifting Memorial Day away from its original fixed date.

Controversy and Transformation:

Over time, Memorial Day transformed from a solemn day of remembrance for fallen service members into an unofficial start of summer and a long weekend for leisure.

General John A. Logan, Memorial Day Founder (A politician and soldier):

Following the Civil War, Logan was instrumental in the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a veterans group comprised of former Union Army soldiers, and served as the GAR's second elected national commander; General Stephen Hurlburt was the first commander in chief of the GAR. On 3 March 1868, Logan issued General Order No. 11, which called for a National Day of Remembrance for Civil War dead. This order served as the basis for what became the national holiday of Memorial Day.

Logan also returned to politics after the war as a Republican and served in both the House and Senate. He was on the 1884 Republican ticket as vice president with presidential candidate James Blaine. Logan died on 26 December 1886 and is buried at the United States Soldiers' & Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, DC.

The Overlooked Black History of Memorial Day

According to Blight's 2001 book *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*, a commemoration organized by freed slaves and some white missionaries took place on May 1, 1865, in Charleston, S.C., at a former planters' racetrack where Confederates held captured Union soldiers during the last year of the war. At least 257 prisoners died, many of disease, and were buried in unmarked graves, so black residents of Charleston decided to give them a proper burial.

Vinny Arcuri noted that the WWI memorial outside of Zum Stammtisch has the monument facing Flanders Fields. Flanders Fields is a common English name of the World War I battlefields in Belgium and France. It was a major battle on the Western Front during the First World War, where a million soldiers from more than 50 different countries were wounded, missing or killed in action. President Ingrid read the humbling Flanders Field poem to our Club.

The **National Moment of Remembrance** is an annual event that asks Americans, wherever they are at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day, to pause for a duration of one minute to remember those who have died in military service to the United States.

Mike Porcelli did his homework for today's Memorial Day program. He had several interesting topics. Great job Mike, as always!

Club News:

Kathleen O'Hara put up an Informative \$ to say she is keeping her phone on during today's meeting. She is not being rude. She is currently in the process of looking for a kidney and can't risk missing a call. She had two calls this past week and unfortunately, they were not a fit, but she is staying her normal positive Kat.

President Ingrid thanked the Club for participating in this past weekend's **Memorial Day Parade**. She shared the nice float that Vinny was brought down through the parade route. She was also thrilled that the rain held out. Mike Porcelli said that was because the service man that was marching with them, his position in the service was the "weather man."

George Schwiller came to the meeting late with his speakers. He brought to it to the meeting to play Taps at the end of the program. He was wasn't sure if he was staying, but eventually took a seat. George had Happy \$\$ to share it was his anniversary with Barbara this week.

Mike Porcelli had Happy \$\$ to announce that this past Tuesday is 54 years since he enlisted in the service.

PP Paul Miceli announced that Bill Dobranski's Faith in the Future Golf Outing is tomorrow.

Additional Happy \$\$ for the program came JR, Rosemarie, Vinny, Kerrie, Kathleen, Karen, Fran, Paul, and Mike.

On June 6th, Glendale Kiwanis will be hosting our annual **Scholarship Awards Dinner** at the CNL Center at Christ the King HS in Middle Village. We will be awarding approx. \$14,000 in scholarships to deserving students in our community this year. We scheduled an evening meeting for members and guests so that we may show our support for the recipients and their families. There is a hot buffet being served, and there is ample parking available. Please make every effort to attend our dinner. The program begins at 6pm.



The **Food Collection** at Stop & Shop was moved to June 8th. For May through September, we are also looking to a Facebook Registry List for people in the community to help donate to the pantries. As many of you know, our chairman Bruce Kramer, is recovering from a hip replacement.

