



Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries

Agawam & Winchendon

Newsletter

MARCH 2024



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www.mass.gov/veterans <https://www.facebook.com/Massvetscemetery> <https://www.facebook.com/MVMCWinchendon>

Throughout the newsletter you will see hyperlinks (underlined blue text) for more information on each subject. Use CTRL + click to open the link on your web browser.

This month's "Celebrating America's Freedoms" story is "Flying the American Flag at Half Staff." If you would like to view or print the other stories, please visit <https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate-america-freedoms.asp>

Special Dates in March:

March 1: Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Asiatic_Fleet

March 1: World Civil Defence Day
<https://nationaltoday.com/world-civil-defense-day/>

March 3: Navy Reserves Birthday
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Navy_Reserve

March 4: Hug a GI Day
<https://veteran.com/hug-a-g-i-day/>

March 4: Casimir Pulaski Day - (First Monday in March in Illinois)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casimir_Pulaski_Day

March 6: Alamo Day
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Alamo

March 13: K-9 Veterans Day
<https://www.military.com/veterans-day/k9-veterans-day.html>

March 19: Operation Iraqi Freedom Day
<https://nationaltoday.com/operation-iraqi-freedom-day/>

March 25: National Medal of Honor Day
<https://www.cmoahs.org/medal/medal-of-honor-day-information>

March 29: Vietnam Veterans Day or Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day
<https://pva.org/news-and-media-center/recent-news/welcome-home-vietnam-veterans-day-faq/>



MVMC Agawam American, Commonwealth, and POW/MIA flags after January 2024 snowstorm

NEWS AROUND THE CEMETERIES

We urge all visitors to use caution when visiting gravesites. Snow, ice, and rain make for slippery and muddy conditions on the grounds. As always, our ground staff will keep roads and sidewalks clear.

Congratulations to Ernest "Ernie" Richards, a former member of the Winchendon Firing Detail, celebrating his 100th Birthday in February! Ernie served with the US Army in World War II. *Happy 100th Birthday, Ernie!* 🎉

Agawam mourned the losses of former Chapel volunteer Dolores Calzolari Molta and former Volunteer Firing Detail member Roland Savoie in February. May Dolores and Roland Rest in Peace.

The scoop of the day

The latest updates



The **Sunshine Protection Act** is a [proposed United States federal law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunshine_Protection_Act#:~:text=The%20Sunshine%20Protection%20Act%20is,longer%20change%20twice%20per%20year.&text=An%20Act%20to%20make%200daylight,permanent%2C%20and%20for%20other%20purposes) that would make [U.S. daylight saving time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunshine_Protection_Act#:~:text=The%20Sunshine%20Protection%20Act%20is,longer%20change%20twice%20per%20year.&text=An%20Act%20to%20make%200daylight,permanent%2C%20and%20for%20other%20purposes) permanent, meaning the time would no longer change twice per year. See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunshine_Protection_Act#:~:text=The%20Sunshine%20Protection%20Act%20is,longer%20change%20twice%20per%20year.&text=An%20Act%20to%20make%200daylight,permanent%2C%20and%20for%20other%20purposes

The scoop of the day

The latest updates



A potted plant, no larger than 8 inches round, will be permitted on the gravesite 5 days before through 5 days after Easter, Sunday, March 31, 2024.

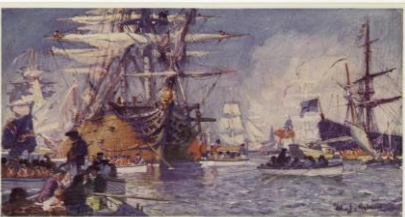
The scoop of the day

The latest updates

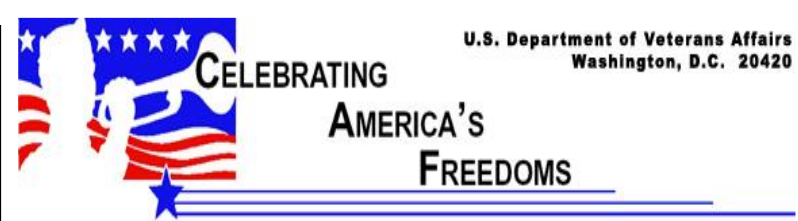


The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, céilithe, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick%27s_Day

OF INTEREST...



Evacuation Day is a holiday observed on March 17 in Suffolk County, Massachusetts. The holiday commemorates the evacuation of British forces from the city of Boston following the siege of Boston, early in the American Revolutionary War. In 2010, the state legislature debated eliminating Evacuation Day and Bunker Hill Day as official holidays, citing the expense of giving state and local workers paid days off. The state's FY2011 budget requires all state and municipal offices in Suffolk County be open on both days. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evacuation_Day_\(Massachusetts\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evacuation_Day_(Massachusetts))



Flying the American Flag at Half Staff

When should the flag be flown at half-staff?



An easy way to remember when to fly the United States flag at half-staff is to consider when the whole nation is in mourning. These periods of mourning are proclaimed either by the president of the United States, for national remembrance, or the governor of a state or territory, for local remembrance, in the event of a death of a member or former member of the federal, state or territorial government or judiciary. The heads of departments and agencies of the federal government may also order that the flag be flown at half-staff on buildings, grounds and naval vessels under their jurisdiction.

On Memorial Day the flag should be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon only, then raised briskly to the top of the staff until sunset, in honor of the nation’s battle heroes.

In the early days of our country, no regulations existed for flying the flag at half-staff and, as a result, there were many conflicting policies. But on March 1, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower issued a proclamation on the proper times.

The flag should fly at half-staff for 30 days at all federal buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States and its territories and possessions after the death of the president or a former president. It is to fly 10 days at half-staff after the death of the vice president, the chief justice or a retired chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, or the speaker of the House of Representatives. For an associate justice of the Supreme Court, a member of the Cabinet, a former vice president, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, or the minority leader of the House of Representatives the flag is to be displayed at half-staff from the day of death until interment.

The flag is to be flown at half-staff at all federal buildings, grounds and naval vessels in the Washington, D.C., area on the day and day after the death of a United States senator, representative, territorial delegate, or the resident commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. It should also be flown at half-staff on all federal facilities in the state, congressional district, territory, or commonwealth of these officials.

Upon the death of the governor of a state, territory or possession, the flag should be flown at half-staff on all federal facilities in that governor’s state, territory or possession from the day of death until interment.

The president may order the flag to be flown at half-staff to mark the death of other officials, former officials, or foreign dignitaries. In addition to these occasions, the president may order half-staff display of the flag after other tragic events.

The flag should be briskly run up to the top of the staff before being lowered slowly to the half-staff position.



May our fallen Veterans Rest in Peace



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Thank you for your service
to our Veterans
and their families!

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