



May 5, 2011
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Sumner to Honor Veterans for Memorial Day

Since 1943, Sumner's VFW Post 3070 has honored Memorial Day by placing flags on the markers of veterans in the Sumner City Cemetery. That tradition will continue for its 68th year in preparation for Sumner's Memorial Day service on May 30 at 10 am. For the past few years, other citizens, including the Boy Scouts, assist the VFW with this tradition.

SUMNER'S MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

WHERE Sumner City Cemetery, 12324 Valley Avenue East, Puyallup, WA 98372

WHEN Monday, May 30, 10 am

WHO Members of the public are encouraged to come and celebrate the traditional meaning of Memorial Day with the citizens of Sumner. As part of the ceremony, the Rainbow Girls place a flower on the memorial as the names are read of Sumner veterans.

IN PREPARATION

Flags will be placed at the markers of veterans on the afternoon of May 26. Individuals who would like to help the VFW should call the Sumner City Cemetery for time information at 253-299-5510.

Flags will be placed by markers that are designated as veterans. If someone has a loved one at the Sumner City Cemetery who also served in the military but is not noted on the marker, they can get a flag from the cemetery office to place by the marker.

PHOTO OP Media outlets looking for photos in advance of Memorial Day may be interested in taking pictures as flags are placed on May 26 or pictures of the cemetery with full flags between May 26 and May 30.

OF INTEREST

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the celebration officially began as Decoration Day, three years after the Civil War ended in 1868. It is believed that May 30 was chosen because flowers would be blooming and available across the country. Over time, Decoration Day became Memorial Day to remember all who have died in service to this country. The Sumner City Cemetery began as two cemeteries: the pioneer cemetery began in 1864 and the "town" section began in 1902. Veterans at rest at the cemetery have served in America's wars from the Civil War to the present.

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