2017 Memorial Day

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Post 2458

United States Navy Seabees

American Legion
Post 136

Marine Corps Color Guard

Wilmington Minuteman Company

Public Works Director
Michael Woods

Veterans’ Services Director
Lou Cimaglia IV

Memorial Day
May 29, 2017

Wilmington, Mass.

Order of Exercises

In Honor of the 100th Anniversary of World War I
**MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES 2017**

**Saturday May 27, 2017**

8:00 A.M. Decoration of Veterans’ Graves at Wildwood Cemetery (Public invited)

10:15 A.M. Decoration of all Squares and Memorials (Public invited)
Families of Veterans with Parks/Squares/Memorials are invited to attend
(please refer to Sunday’s schedule for the order in which they will be decorated)

**Starting at Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial- Wilmington Memorial Library**
Tap’s will be played at all squares by Ken Michaud

**Sunday May 28, 2017**

11:00 A.M. Veterans’ Mass St. Thomas-Villanova Church, Wilmington

**Rededication of Parks, Squares, and Monuments**

1:00 P.M. Police Station Monument (Public invited)

1:15 P.M. At Veterans Monument on Town Common - Rededication of Following Squares:
Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial - Wilmington Memorial Library
Robert W. Parent Memorial - Old Town Hall, Middlesex Avenue
Rogers Park - Middlesex Avenue by Town Pound
Ronald Eaton Square - Glen Road and Main Street
Missing at Sea Sailors - Silver Lake at Main Street
John F. Landry Jr. Memorial - Main Street at Silver Lake
John J. Fullerton, Jr. Memorial - Grove Avenue
Richard Welch M.I.A. Memorial - Main Street and Bridge Lane
Nee Park - Burlington Avenue and Chestnut Street
Berrigan Park - Lower Main Street and Cook Avenue
John A. Rich Memorial - Lowell Street near Textron
Veterans Memorial Bridge at Lowell Street
Drew Square - Woburn Street and West Street
Butterworth Square - Federal at Concord Street
Regan Park - Salem Street
Old Soldiers Lot - Wildwood Cemetery
WWI Cannon- Wildwood Cemetery

**Monday May 29, 2017**

9:30 A.M. Parade formation- Adult Groups at Market Basket Parking Lot

**Division II, Aleppo Temple Shrine, Wilmington MA**

**Division III**
Tewksbury/Wilmington Order of Elks, Tewksbury/Wilmington Emblem Club, Wilmington Friendship Lodge AF and AM, Wilmington Sons of Italy, Knights of Columbus and 4th Degree Honor Guard, Wilmington Combined Intermediate School Band, Wilmington Rotary, Lions Club, Wilmington, Wilmington United Methodist Church

**Division IV**
The Dance Company, Wilmington Recreation Tee Ball, Wilmington Youth Soccer, Wilmington Boys and Girls Basketball, Silver Lake Tae Kwon Do, Academy of Traditional Karate and A.T.A., Black Belt Academy, Wilmington Dance Academy, Children’s Theatre Workshop, Lorraine Spada School of Dance, Wilmington High School cheerleaders and Pop Warner cheerleaders, Wilmington Youth Lacrosse, Cub Scout Pack 361

**Division V**
Wilmington Elementary School Band, Junior and Cadet Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisies

**Division VI**
All other vehicles

11:00 A.M. Veterans’ Lot and Soldiers Monument- Ceremonies

Flag Ceremony - All Color Guards

The National Anthem sung by Nicole Bertolami, Graduate of Wilmington High School

Invocation – Deacon Cliff King, Vietnam Veteran

Master of Ceremonies - Lou Cimaglia IV, Director, Department of Veterans’ Services

Introduction of Dignitaries: Doris Syrakos (Gold Star Mother), Guest Speaker

Specialist Antonio J. Syrakos, Passed January 10, 2013

Placing of Wreath: Wilmington Gold Star Families

Musical Presentation – Wilmington High School Band
Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address read by 8th Grade WMS Student, Sam Juergens
Poem read by 8th Grade WMS Student, Allison Broussard

Wilmington Veterans Roll Call of Killed in Action/ Missing in Action

Rifle Volley – Wilmington’s Police Department Rifle Team

Cannon Volley – Wilmington Minutemen

Taps – Trumpeters from Wilmington High School Music Department

Benediction – Deacon Cliff King, Vietnam Veteran

Parade Regroups – Marches out Main Gate to Middlesex Ave. to pass in review at the Fourth of July Building

**ALL YOUTH GROUPS AT THE WILMINGTON HOUSE OF PIZZA WILL BE PLACED IN DIVISION IV AND V BEFORE ANY VEHICLES. Hot dogs at the Fourth of July Building after parade for all children who march, provided by The Town of Wilmington**

**“Let us not mourn that such men died**
**But rejoice that such men lived.”**

~General George S. Patton~
In Honor of All Veterans of World War I
The Story of Chief Machinist’s Mate Martin J. Nee, Sr.

Wilmington, MA
On a single rock on a small patch of grass at the intersection of Burlington Ave. and Marion St. is mounted a plaque that commemorates the service and sacrifice of Chief Machinist’s Mate Martin Joseph Nee, Sr. Following America’s entry into World War I in April of 1917, the U.S. Navy sent its ships into battle almost immediately. One ship, the U.S.S. Jacob Jones made its way from its patrol station off the Virginia coast to Queenstown, Ireland (modern day Cobh, Ireland). Queenstown was a major naval station from which Allied warships sortied into the Atlantic. They had two tasks, escorting merchantmen and hunting German U-Boats in the Western Approaches. The Jacob Jones, Destroyer 61, was a Tucker Class destroyer built by New York Shipbuilding in Camden, New Jersey. She was a four stack, "1000 tonner" armed with 4 inch deck guns, torpedo tubes and depth charges. Long and sleek, she was oil fired and had a top speed of 30 knots. Joining five other ships in Queenstown in May of 2017, she formed the Eighth Division, Destroyer Force, Atlantic Fleet. Performing escort duty and anti-submarine patrols, she operated between the Irish coast and Brest, France across the western entrance to the English Channel. On December 6, 1917, the Jones was under the command of Commander David Bagley and was sailing alone on a return trip to Queenstown from Brest. At 16:20 hours she was spotted by U-53 under the command of Kapitanleutnant Hans Rose. At 3000 yards the U-53 launched a single torpedo. Although spotted by the crew of the Jones, they were unable to evade. The torpedo struck the starboard side of the ship in a fuel oil bunker and exploded with devastating consequences. According to Commander Bagley's after action report, the after compartments and engine room flooded immediately and the decks were soon awash. As the Jones settled by the stern, the armed depth charges began detonating. The ship sank in eight minutes somewhere off of the Isles of Scilly. As a Machinist’s Mate, Chief Martin Nee's station would have been below decks in the engineering spaces. Striking three feet below the waterline almost amidships, the torpedo killed the men in the engine room and fire rooms outright. Thirty-seven of the crew were able to abandon ship but sixty-six others, including Martin Nee perished. He is officially listed as "Lost at Sea" and although not buried there, his name is included on a memorial stone with other crew members located at Bookwood American Military Cemetery in Bookwood, Woking Borough, Surrey England. Martin Nee was born in 1884 and although from Wilmington, he was living in Norfolk, Virginia with his wife, Katie Mae Nee at the time of his death. As for Hans Rose, he was considered by the Allies to be a professional and humanitarian naval officer. Upon sinking the Jones he surfaced and rescued two crew members albeit as prisoners of war. Additionally, he radioed the naval base at Queenstown and relayed the position and drift of the Jones' survivors allowing Allied ships to successfully rescue the remaining crew. For his actions during the war with the Kaiserliche Marine (the Kaiser's Navy) Captain Rose was awarded the prestigious "Pour Le Merite" (the Blue Max). Of curious note is that prior to U.S. entry in the war, Captain Rose had sailed U-53 into Narragansett Bay and made a port of call, docking in Newport, Rhode Island delivering diplomatic communiques to the German Ambassador. The Martin J. Nee Memorial was later dedicated by the "Grateful Citizens of Wilmington" and in an ironic finality to the story, Hans Rose died on the anniversary of his sinking of the Jacob Jones on December 6, 1969. (Source material: Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships, Find a Grave, NavSource, uboot.net, Queenstown Patrol)