

The Town of Hilton Head Island

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1863, the Women of Columbus, Mississippi went to the community cemetery to decorate the gravesites of their Confederate War dead, noted the nearby bare and unattended graves of the Northern dead who had fallen on the same field of battle, and returned with flowers to place upon the Union graves in a gesture that offered the promise of reconciliation for a deeply divided nation; and

WHEREAS, in 1873 “DECORATION DAY,” so named because of the custom of decorating the graves of servicemen with flowers, became a legal holiday; and

WHEREAS, in 1882 the holiday was made more inclusive and renamed “MEMORIAL DAY”, and today it recognizes the heroes from all of America’s wars; and

WHEREAS, the Hilton Head Island Council of the Navy League of the United States has elected to formalize the Hilton Head Island Annual Commemoration of Memorial Day to assure its observance; and

WHEREAS, the Hilton Head Island Council of the Navy League of the United States has invited and encouraged our citizens, other service-oriented groups and our visitors to participate; and

WHEREAS, it is important to remember the significance of this unique day, to cherish the precious freedoms all generations enjoy . . . freedom bought with the blood and the lives of our fallen servicemen and women in every branch of service. These gifts must never be forgotten.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John J. McCann, Mayor of the Town of Hilton Head Island, hereby proclaim that May 31, 2021 shall be recognized as:

MEMORIAL DAY

In the Town of Hilton Head Island and as the Mayor, I call upon all citizens and visitors to observe this Memorial Day and the memories of those it honors with a spirit of gratitude and reverence.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hilton Head Island to be affixed this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one.

John J. McCann, Mayor

Attest:

Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk