

Memorial Day Celebration Planned for May 27

If you are being honest with yourself, when most people think of Memorial Day, the first few thoughts that come to mind are usually grilling out in the backyard with family and friends, a day trip to the nearest lake, or a beach trip to officially open the season of summer. These are all really nice ideas and we as Americans certainly enjoy them and rightfully so, but the more serious thought should be to remember those men and women who sacrificed their lives while serving in the armed forces for our great United States of America.

The people who keep the real meaning of this day close to their hearts and minds are the ones who loved their husbands, sons, and other family member. They left home young and vibrant and full of patriotism and returned home quietly in a flag-draped coffin with very little fanfare. The families of those soldiers never healed and live from day to day missing them at family reunions, birthday parties and family cookouts. Some even have no graves to visit, only markers in a nearby cemetery.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday observed annually in the United States on the last Monday of May. Formally known as Decoration Day, it originated after the American Civil War. On Memorial Day the flag is briskly raised to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon. It is then raised to full-staff for the remainder of the day. The half-staff position of the flag remembers the more than one million men and women who gave their lives in service of their country.

The Anson County Veteran's Council will conduct a Memorial Day ceremony to acknowledge and remember fallen soldiers at the publicly thank the men and women who actually paid the price for your freedom. In life they honored their country; in death, their country honors them.

Each person attending the ceremony will receive a "Buddy Poppy" to wear. The poppies were fashioned by the Veterans Day of Foreign Affairs as a fundraiser for their Veterans Assistance Programs. The red poppy is the official flower of Memorial Day. How appropriate the poem "In Flanders Fields."

USDA: Final Call for 2012 Census of Agriculture

Anson County shouldn't miss chance to provide facts straight from the farm

With the window to respond to the 2012 Census of Agriculture officially closing on May 31, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is urging Anson County farmers and producers not to miss this opportunity to be counted and help determine the future of farming in America. USDA has already received more than 2 million completed Census forms.

"Our nation needs your help to ensure that decisions about U.S. agriculture accurately represent you, your communities, and your industry," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "For every 158 people in America there is one farm. I urge you to take action today and respond to the Census - your country is counting on the information to help ensure a continued supply of food, fiber and fuel for generations to come."

The Census of Agriculture, conducted only once every five years, is the only source of consistent and comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation. It looks at farms, value of land, market value of agricultural production, farm practices, expenditures, and other factors that affect the way farmers and ranchers do business. The information is used by agribusinesses, town planners, local governments, and policy makers, as well as farmers, ranchers, growers and others to shape farm programs, boost rural services and grow the future of farming.

"Agriculture in America is an industry built on tradition, honor and pride," said Vilsack. "We have heard this from the farmers and ranchers who completed their Census of Agriculture form. It's not too late for those who have not yet responded to join the generations of producers who participated in the Agriculture Census since it was first conducted in 1840. Only you can continue to provide the facts straight from the farm."

The 2012 Census will provide a complete picture of agriculture that will be used to shape the future of agriculture, rural America, and the lives of Americans. The deadline to respond to the Census of Agriculture is only a few weeks away on May 31. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) may contact producers by phone or in person to collect Census information since time is running out.

Anson County farmers and producers can also return their forms by mail or online by visiting a secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov. Federal law requires a response from everyone who receives the Census form and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential.

For more information about the Census, including helpful tips on completing your Census form, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828). The Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, your responsibility.

For more information on USDA Farm Service Agency Programs, contact the Anson County Farm Service Agency office at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro. Telephone (704) 694-3516 Ext 2

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

Memorial Day Commemoration at Hopewell UMC

Hopewell United Methodist Church will hold their annual Memorial Day Commemoration on Monday, May 27 at 11 a.m. This event marks the tragedy of war, the valor of service, and our hope for peace. They welcome anyone who would like to participate. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Hopewell UMC is located at 1715 Hopewell Church Road in Peachland.

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West Ansonville High School Reunion Details

The West Ansonville High School Reunion is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, June 8 and 9. Saturday at Little Park, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, a fellowship at Fairview Church of God at 11 a.m. and then a banquet at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, from 4 to 8 p.m.

The cost for both days is \$50 per person. One day is \$30 per person. The deadline to register and pay is May 15. Contact Ruby at 704-826-8209 or Billy at 704-826-8580.

Brown Bag Book Club Meeting to Feature Author Devondia Roseborough

The Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, May 20 at 12:00 noon in the Pritchett Room of the Hampton B. Allen Library. Author Devondia Roseborough will be the speaker. This is a covered dish buffet and they ask that each person bring a dish and a friend.

If you have questions or need additional information please call the library at 704-694-5177.

Zimmer Friends to Meet

The Zimmer Friends Group will meet at Bojangles on Friday, June 7 at 6 p.m. For more information call 704-694-4213.

Tractor Supply Paper Clover Fundraiser Supports Anson County 4-H

From May 8 to 19 Tractor Supply in Wadesboro is partnering with the National 4-H Council to offer a Spring Paper Clover Promotion to help support our local 4-H program in Anson County. Shoppers will have the choice of adding \$1 to their purchase at checkout, or you can purchasing a \$5 clover. Proceeds will come to the local 4-H program and will help to cover costs for trips, summer day camps, conferences, and volunteer trainings.



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