



Balfour-Cole Post #64
American Legion
P.O. Box 17055
Smithfield, RI 02917
401-300-4550

Monday, May 31st, is Memorial Day, a federal holiday in the United States on which we honor and mourn members of the military who have passed while serving in our Armed Forces. In April, with no idea of whether the pandemic would recede, and out of consideration for the health and welfare of both our neighbors and our members, Balfour-Cole Post 64, Smithfield's American Legion post, reluctantly decided that there would be no ceremony in Deerfield Park this Memorial Day.

While we regret missing this annual event, each of our members will, in some small way, honor our comrades who have given so much for our country. And we encourage everyone in our community, particularly the school-age children, to take a moment on Monday and think of the sacrifices others have made for our country. From the American Revolution to our on-going withdrawal in Afghanistan today, members of our armed forces have struggled, and died, for those they love and for those they will never know. The scale of their sacrifice is immense, and the scope of it can be better appreciated by viewing pictures of the 26 American military cemeteries located in 17 foreign countries (www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials) or of Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia (www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/about).

If you have never been, we recommend a weekend visit to the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery in Exeter, where you can view numerous monuments and walk among the flag decorated graves of fellow Rhode Islanders who have served in our military. Closer to home, consider spending a quiet moment and, perhaps, placing a flower at one of Smithfield's numerous memorials: <https://www.smithfieldri.com/veterans-war-memorials/>).

We look forward to seeing you at Memorial Day, 2022. Until then, stay safe and keep in mind the charge given by a World War I soldier in a poem he wrote, and which you probably read in school:

To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Michael Silvia
Commander

Bruce Iannuccillo
Adjutant

Skip Sweeney
Past Commander