

Memorial Day events today through Monday

by: ALTHEA PETERSON World Staff Writer
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View a memorial to the Oklahomans who have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan:
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Ceremonies slated to honor veterans

Local veterans, their relatives and friends, and community members will hold ceremonies not just on Memorial Day on Monday but throughout the holiday weekend.

Here's a list of area events commemorating both active and retired military personnel. All are open to the public.

Friday

9:30 a.m.: Raising of the avenue flags, Floral Haven Memorial Gardens, 6500 S. 129th East Ave., Broken Arrow.

Saturday

7 a.m.: Flag-raising ceremony at Woodland Memorial Park, 1200 N. Cleveland, Sand Springs. The event is sponsored by American Legion Post 17.

10 a.m.: Raising of newly donated flags at Floral Haven. Ceremony includes a tribute to World War II Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Col. Ernest Childers, as well as dedication of a new bronze sculpture of Childers.

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Blood drive at Floral Haven. For more information or to pre-register, call 252-2518.

1 p.m.: Changing of the Guard at Floral Haven. Members of the Civil Air Patrol will re-enact the Changing of the Guard ceremony every half-hour beginning at 1 p.m. at the replica of the Tomb of the Unknowns west of Floral Haven Funeral Home.

All day: "Honoring Our Heroes" at Floral Haven. Visitors can write a personal message of support to troops on a banner that will be given to the Oklahoma National Guard to be sent for display in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Also, the Blue Star Mothers is sponsoring a collection for Freedom Boxes that are sent to troops overseas. Items should include travel- and individual-size toiletries, drink mixes, canned pasta meals, oatmeal packets, etc.

Sunday

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: DAV drive at Wal-Mart, 207 S. Memorial Drive. Disabled American Veterans Chapter 32 will be collecting gift-card donations Sunday and Monday for disabled veterans in tornado-damaged Picher.

Monday

8 a.m. to 10 a.m.: Breakfast at American Legion Post 36, 105 E. Lee St., Sapulpa. Veterans and their families will receive free breakfast before Memorial Day ceremonies.

9 a.m.: Ceremony at Memorial Park Cemetery, 51st Street and Memorial Drive. It will include a flyover, guest speaker Marine Maj. Michael Purcell, a color guard and rifle salute.

10 a.m.: Monument unveiling at Rose Hill Cemetery, 4161 E. Admiral Place. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Daughters of the American Revolution will unveil the Grand Army of the Republic monument dedicated to the memory of all veterans, especially those of the Civil War Union Army.

11 a.m.: Ceremony at Woodland Memorial Park, Sand Springs. Guest speaker is state Rep. Rex Duncan, a lieutenant colonel in the Army National Guard.

The event also will recognize Janice Hall Billue, the widow of Vietnam War veteran Billie "Sonny" Hall, who has been recommended to have his Distinguished Service Cross upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

11 a.m.: Ceremony at Green Hill Memorial Gardens, 400 E. Teel Road, Sapulpa. The event will include the Young Marines of Broken Arrow, guest speakers and the laying of wreaths.

11 a.m.: Ceremony at Veterans Circle in the Okmulgee Cemetery on U.S. 75 south of Okmulgee.

1:05 p.m.: Military Appreciation Day at Drillers Stadium, 4802 E. 15th St. All active military personnel will receive free admission, and military veterans and family members of active and retired military personnel will receive half-price admission to the Tulsa Drillers game versus the Midland RockHounds.

The first 1,000 fans to enter the stadium will receive a special Defender of Freedom Challenge Coin from Sacrifice for Freedom, recognizing the family of Pfc. Jeron Holliday of Broken Arrow, who was killed by a roadside bomb while serving in Iraq in August of 2007.


2 p.m.: Ceremony at Fort Gibson National Cemetery in Fort Gibson.

5 p.m.: Retiring of the colors at Floral Haven. The Indian Nations Council of the Boy Scouts of America will lead the flag ceremonies.

All day: Big Splash Water Park, 4707 E. 21st St., will offer free admission to active-duty military members and their spouses and \$5 admission to all family and friends of military personnel.

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