



Town of Chatham

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 14, 2020

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Memorial Day to be Commemorated Virtually in Chatham

The Town of Chatham will not be holding its traditional Memorial Day ceremony this year but will instead be broadcasting a virtual commemoration on Channel 18 and streaming on YouTube on Monday, May 25, 2020 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The team from Channel 18 has been working with Robert Franz, the Chair of the Town's Public Ceremonies Committee, to re-create the traditional ceremony by pre-recording segments at each memorial and finding creative, socially distant ways to involve the Board of Selectmen, and representatives from Police and Fire Departments, local Scout Troops, US Coast Guard Station Chatham and members of the community.

"Though we cannot gather together during these unprecedented times, it's important to set aside time to remember the members of the United States Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. This helps to put the word "Memorial" back in Memorial Day and remind us that it's much more than a three-day weekend," said Franz.

The Town's Media Coordinator, Ryan Darmon, and Assistant Media Coordinator, Mark Van Bork, will edit the footage together for broadcast on the holiday.

Town Manager Jill Goldsmith said, "This is yet another example of how creative Ryan and Mark are in bringing Town news and events to our community members."

"The willingness and excitement by everyone involved made this a joy to work on," said Darmon.

Town officials urge community members to follow the social distancing guidelines from MADPH and CDC (6 feet from other persons) and to wash hands, utilize alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and practice proper respiratory etiquette. The Chatham Board of Health has issued an order for all to wear a face covering when in public, whether indoors or outdoors, in situations where maintaining social distances is difficult.

Updated information is available on the Town's website:
<https://www.chathamma.gov/home/pages/covid-19-coronavirus-information>.