

Proclamation



WHEREAS, Memorial Day (or Decoration Day as it was formerly called) is a patriotic day to honor American soldiers who have given their lives to honor their country. The first Decoration Day was observed on May 30, 1868, for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country; and

WHEREAS, from the opening battles of the American Revolution through the turmoil of the Civil War, to World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, to the Persian Gulf and today's operations in the war on terror in Afghanistan, Iraq, and around the world, the members of our military have built a tradition of honorable and faithful service. As we observe Memorial Day, we remember the more than one million Americans who have died to preserve our freedom, the more than 140,000 citizens who were prisoners of war, and all those who were declared missing in action. We also honor our veterans for their dedication to America and their willingness to pay the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, this great country surrendered its bravest to liberate the oppressed and ensure freedom for its citizens and future generations. These men and women placed God and country before their own personal safety, pledged themselves to the continuation of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all Americans, and should be recognized as defenders of our freedom on all fronts, domestic and foreign. We gratefully acknowledge that we live in freedom today because of the many sacrifices that have been made, and are still being made, by our valiant servicemen and women and pray that the day will come when freedom and liberty will prevail without the need for their ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, "Day is done, gone the sun, from the lakes, from the hills, from the skies, all is well, safely rest. God is nigh...." - in memory and honor of our veterans who gave their all that we might live freely; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Morris L. West, as Mayor of the City of Haines City, do hereby proclaim Monday, May 26, 2025, as

"MEMORIAL DAY"

in the City of Haines City and urge all residents and visitors alike to join with us on this day as we remember, recognize, and offer our gratitude for our servicemen and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice and show respect to our veterans in attending the Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony on Monday, May 27, 2024, at 9 a.m. at Railroad Park.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Haines City, to be affixed this 15th day of May, 2025.

Morris L. West, Mayor