

NEWS

Northbrook's Field of Honor 1,901 Flags Flying on the Village Green

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Northbrook Field of Honor Community Event to Honor Military Personnel with Breathtaking Display

A sea of red, white and blue flags will fly at Village Green Park in Northbrook during the Memorial Day weekend, honoring those who serve and have served in our nation's military. For five days, 1,901 American flags will stand atop 8-foot-tall poles in the park in a stunning display of patriotism, called a Field of Honor. Event organizers are hoping for a large turnout to view the flags and remember and honor our heroes.

"It's a unique experience, a time to come out and feel connected to the community and what Memorial Day stands for," said Judy Hughes, president of the Northbrook Historical Society, which is sponsoring the event, along with the Northbrook Park District, George W. Benjamin American Legion Post 791 and VFW Post 10236.

"The flags are dedicated to everyday heroes, people who have served and people who gave the ultimate sacrifice. We owe them so much. The freedom we enjoy today is due in part to citizen soldiers willing to put their lives at risk to protect our rights."

The flags will be five feet apart, arranged in rows that visitors can walk through. The number represents the year (1901) that the Village was incorporated. Some flags will honor everyday heroes, such as teachers and friends. Others will honor men and women from Northbrook who served their country or the 110th birthday of the Village. Circling the ball diamond will be 43 flags, honoring the 43 Northbrook men who gave their lives in defense of the country. Each of these men also is honored on a permanent Memorial Wall in the park.

With help from volunteers, the flags will be assembled on May 21 and 22 and placed in the park on Thursday, May 26, beginning at 8am. A group of reservists from Great Lakes Naval Station will assist Park District staff in the assembly, which is expected to take several hours. About 1,000 people already are involved in the project, including local boy scouts who agreed to sleep in the park to watch over the flags.

The Field will be open through the holiday weekend with nightly sunset services by local clergy and musical entertainment on Saturday and Sunday, including The Legacy Girls, Navy Band Great Lakes and Northbrook Symphony Brass Quintet. The celebration also includes a parade on Monday, followed

by a ceremony with an appearance by U.S. Representative Robert Dold (R- IL).

Parking is available at the Village Green, as well as St. Norbert School and the nearby Metra commuter train lot. For more information, contact Judy Hughes at 847/272-7567. Online flag sales are available at www.healingfield.org/northbrook

Field of Honor Schedule

Northbrook, Illinois

All activities take place at Village Green Park – Corner of Shermer and Meadow Roads

Flag Assembly

Saturday, May 21 9-11:30 am and 1-3:30 pm

Sunday, May 22 1-3:30 pm

Flag Setup

Thursday, May 26 8am - Flags placed in ground

Healing Field Display

Following setup on Thursday, May 26 (approx. noon) until 9 pm

Open to the public daily from 9 am- 9 pm Friday, May 27 through Monday, May 30

Other Activities

Thursday, May 26

Opening Ceremony Pastor Mike Nevling – Village Church 8-8:30 pm

Friday, May 27

Information / Flag Sale Tent 10 am-6 pm

Sunset Ceremony Father Tom Moran – Our Lady of the Brook 8-8:30 pm

Saturday, May 28

Information / Flag Sale Tent 10 am - 6 pm

Music in the Gazebo

Patriotic Music Marches On 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

The Legacy Girls 1-2 pm

Palatine Concert Band 2:30-4 pm

Sunset Ceremony 8-8:30 pm

Sunday, May 29

Information / Flag Sale Tent 10 am-6 pm

Music in the Gazebo

Navy Band Great Lakes Noon-1 pm

The Legacy Girls 1:30-2:30 pm

Northbrook Symphony Brass Quintet 3-4 pm

Sunset Ceremony 8-8:30 pm

Monday, May 30

Information / Flag Sale Tent 10 am-6 pm

Parade from Cherry & Western to Village Green Park 10:30 am

Ceremony in the Village Green Immediately after the parade

Closing Sunset Ceremony Pastor John Berg – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 8-8:30 pm

Tuesday, May 31

Dismantle field and arrange for flag pickup 8 am

Flag pickup 6-8 pm

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