



This weekend, we celebrate such an important holiday. On Memorial Day, we celebrate the gift of those brave men and women who gave everything in the service of our country. We hold parades, have parties, and show our gratitude for those amazing souls willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. However it's good to remind each other that this isn't just a party day. Take time this weekend to remember the Connecticut Guardsmen and women who gave their lives in the service of our country.

"Mansions of the Lord", a beautiful 8 minute video. This is the link to the video on Youtube. (Provided courtesy of COL (Ret) Chuck Schluter.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lq2BbVZ2LEc#action=share>

Attend a Memorial Day Ceremony in a community near you. This is a link to a listing of ceremonies in Connecticut.

<https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/2023-memorial-day-parades-ceremonies-in-connecticut/3027998/?amp=1>

Following is a small tribute to our fellow soldiers who gave their lives in service to this nation.



SPC Cindy M. Beaudoin:

Born on July 20, 1971, the daughter of Paul & Phyllis Beaudoin. Her dad was a Veteran of the Vietnam War and a member of the Connecticut National Guard.

In 1989, Cindy Graduated from Plainfield High School, Plainfield, Connecticut. Shortly afterward she followed in her dad's footsteps and joined the 142nd Medical Co., Connecticut National Guard.

In 1990 the unit was activated for Desert Storm and shortly thereafter left for Saudi Arabia. The 142nd's journey had taken it north from Saudi Arabia into Iraq and then east to just across the border into Kuwait.

There, at about 3:00 P.M. on February 28, an explosion rocked the 142nd's convoy. At the sound of the explosion, Cindy dove out of her truck and took up a position in the sand with her M16. At that point there was a second explosion where Cindy was laying in the sand, mortally wounding her.

In Flanders Fields

**In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place;**



SGT Felix Delgreco

SGT Felix Delgreco of Simsbury, a member of C Company, 102nd Infantry in Bristol, was killed April 9, 2004 while on patrol in Baghdad, when his vehicle struck an improvised bomb and was attacked with small arms. He was the first member of the Connecticut Army National Guard to die in Iraq. He was 22 years old.

A member of Simsbury High's Class of 1999, Delgreco played trumpet in the jazz band. He worked as part of the backstage technical crew on school plays and other performances.

He also was an Eagle Scout.

"He was proud of that achievement," he said. "I was happy to be there because he was such a great kid and he was well-liked by his classmates. He always had a smile on his face all the time."

"He was one of those kids you just wanted to bring home and adopt," said Bergouhi Spencer, Delgreco's high school Latin teacher of four years.

Spencer remembers Delgreco as a boy with a keen curiosity and a joy to have in class. She took her Latin class to Europe every year and Delgreco was along for four of them. She gave her students Latin nicknames, but Delgreco came ready-made with a moniker.

"Felix means lucky or happy in Latin and we used to kid him about that," she said. "I can just see him sitting there."

Spencer said he could also still see him basking on the steps of a Florence cathedral, blending in with his trademark European beret-style cap, which he wore on all the trips abroad.

"He was just a part of the fabric, sitting there in the sun," Spencer said.

Delgreco would often come back and visit his former teacher, once proudly wearing his uniform, she recalled. She learned of his death Saturday night.

**And in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below
We are the Dead. Short days ago**



SPC Robert Hoyt

A member of the C Company, 102nd Infantry Battalion from Bristol , was killed Dec. 11, 2004 when his armored vehicle struck a bomb in Baghdad . He was a graduate of E.O Smith High School in Storrs and has family in the Ashford area. He was 21 years old.

Robert William Hoyt, 21, a beloved son, brother, grandson, nephew, friend, warrior, combat veteran and Hero, died Saturday, (December 11, 2004) in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV while conducting convoy operations. Hoyt was assigned to the Army National Guard's C Company, 1st Battalion 102nd Infantry, Bristol.

Robert Hoyt was born in Manchester to Kathleen and Thomas D. Hoyt, Sr. He grew up in Mansfield, was a 2001 graduate of Edwin O. Smith High School and enlisted in the Connecticut National Guard in 2002. Hoyt had a love for sports and music. He played football and ran track in high school. He also coached football for the Mansfield youth league. He was an employee of Wing Foot Commercial Tire.

Soldiering is an affair of the heart, and it is that spirit, that fundamental commitment to volunteer, to place the Nation's needs above one's own, that makes Robert Hoyt one of the best Soldiers in the world today. Robert Hoyt was a great Soldier, who voluntarily answered the call to duty. He was a true hero. He was predeceased by his grandmother, Etta Zwick and his grandfather, Ross Russell. Survivors include mother, Kathleen Hoyt of Storrs, father, Thomas Hoyt of Ashford; his brother, Thomas Hoyt, Jr.; two sisters, Ginger and Amber Hoyt; grandmothers, Clara Russell and Nancy Cunningham; grandfathers, Samuel Zwick and Paul Cunningham; 26 aunts and uncles; many cousins and countless friends.

**We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.**



SSG Joseph E Phaneuf II

SSG Joseph E Phaneuf II, 38, of Kozey Road died Friday, 15 Dec 2006 in Afghanistan.

He was the loving husband of Michele Kozey Phaneuf for eleven years. Born in Putnam, he was the son of Peter Phaneuf of Dayville, and Barbara Ortega Phaneuf of Killingly.

Staff Sgt. Phaneuf joined the Headquarters Company of the First Battalion 102nd Infantry Brigade in New Haven in November of 2005. He was also deployed to Iraq in February of 2004 with the Connecticut Guard's 118th Medical Battalion. Prior to his service in Afghanistan, he worked as a field operating technician for T-Mobile for five years. Joseph was a member of the Eastford Volunteer Fire Department and also coached basketball, T-ball and baseball. He enjoyed photography and golf and was an avid Michigan Wolverine fan.

Besides his wife and his parents, he is survived by three beloved children, Ryan Phaneuf, Danielle Phaneuf and Jordan Phaneuf, all at home; three brothers, Dennis Phaneuf of Medford, Ma., Tony Phaneuf of Killingly, and Rob Phaneuf of East Putnam; three sisters, Tiffany Gion of Killingly, Holly Grube of Eastford, and Veronica Mobley of Montville; father and mother-in-law, Greg and Teddy (LaBarre) Kozey of Eastford; a sister-in law, Sharon Kozey of Eastford and 13 nieces and nephews.

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.**



SSG Edwin Rivera:

SSG Edwin Rivera died 25 May 10 from injuries received from indirect fire on May 20th in Laghman Province, Afghanistan.

He was serving in the 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment. It was one of two Connecticut National Guard units deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq late last year.

Governor Jodi Rell has ordered that flags around the state be flown at half-staff until his interment.

"As we pause over the coming days to remember, honor, encourage and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices of men and women who have served our nation in uniform, I ask that every Connecticut citizen keep Staff Sergeant Rivera, the Rivera family and their friends in their thoughts and prayers," the Governor said in a written statement.

**If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.**

*Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)
Canadian Army*

Play taps in their honor: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-Xrlf3taEo>

The long version played by 13 year old Melissa Venema with Andre Rieu: "<http://www.flixxy.com/trumpet-solo-melissa-venema.htm>">

**"SAD IS AN NATION WHO HAS NO HEROES -
PITIFUL IS AN NATION WHO HAS HEROES BUT FORGETS THEM"**

John F Kennedy

