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Memorial Day parades and ceremonies scheduled May 25

Memorial Day parades and ceremonies for Sarasota and Venice will begin at 10 a.m. Monday, May 25, at Main Street and Osprey Avenue in Sarasota and at 10:30 a.m. at Veteran's Park at the west end of Venice Avenue in Venice. The events are coordinated by the Sarasota Patriotic Observance Committee, the Venice Area Veterans Council and Sarasota County's Veterans Benefits Unit.

The Sarasota parade will travel west on Main Street to Chaplain J.D. Hamel Park on Gulfstream Avenue. Marching units will include veterans' services organizations, law enforcement agencies, fire departments and their color guards, civic organizations and historical military equipment. The theme of the Sarasota parade and ceremony is "Never Forget."

"The parade and ceremony is an opportunity for the citizens of Sarasota County to honor not only veterans of the Armed Services, but police officers, sheriff's deputies, firefighters and emergency medical personnel," said Patriotic Observance Committee President Dan Kunkel.

A ceremony at Hamel Park will begin immediately after the parade, with guest speaker Lt. Col. William Brockman from the Sarasota Military Academy.

The Venice ceremony at Veteran's Park will feature guest speaker Andy Hooker, vice president of the Sarasota County Veterans Commission.

American Legion Post 159, 1770 E. Venice Ave., Venice will also hold a ceremony at 11:30 a.m. followed by an open house.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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