



PRESS RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF MAYOR MICHAEL P. BYRNE

**PARMA HEIGHTS CITY HALL
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May 15, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PARMA HEIGHTS MEMORIAL DAY TRADITION TO CONTINUE

Parma Heights - The Parma Heights Memorial Day ceremony, thought to be the oldest continuous service in the state, will take place on the front lawn of the Parma-South Presbyterian Church, 6155 Pearl Road, just as it has for the past 146 consecutive years. It will be followed by a parade and second service at the Parma Heights Cemetery.

Parma Heights Mayor Michael P. Byrne urges residents to focus on the fact that Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. "The continuation of the two services is the heart of the Memorial Day observance in the City of Parma Heights," the Mayor explained. The City of Parma Heights has celebrated Memorial Day with the two services since its inception in 1868.

The service at the church will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, May 27, and be followed by a parade up Pearl Road to the Parma Heights Cemetery where a Memorial Service is scheduled to begin at about 10:30 a.m. with the arrival of the parade participants. According to the Reverend Mark L. Juengel, Head of Staff for Parma-South Presbyterian Church, this year's parade participants will include the Valley Forge Senior High Band, Veterans groups, floats entered by local civic groups as tributes to those members of our armed forces who have died in battle, mechanized units of the Parma Heights Police and Fire departments, Scout groups and other community groups.

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed as a National Day of Observance on May 5, 1868, by General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11. Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. After World War I, the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war.

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