

Park & Recreation Commission Item

June 24, 2025



Item	2025 Memorial Day Evaluation
Item No:	H.5
Agenda Section	<u>REPORTS</u>
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SUGGESTED ACTION

SUMMARY

The 2025 Memorial Day Ceremony was held on Monday, May 26 at the Al Klingelhutz Memorial Pavilion in Lake Ann Park. This annual event, presented in partnership with the Chanhassen American Legion Post 580, honors the brave men and women who have died in service to our country.

This year marked the first time the ceremony was held at Lake Ann due to ongoing construction at City Center Park. The new location was well-received, offering scenic surroundings, a covered shelter, and ample space for attendees.

The event included cemetery services at Leach Cemetery, Chanhassen Pioneer Cemetery, and St. Hubert's Cemetery earlier in the morning, followed by a formal ceremony at noon featuring a keynote address by Jon Lovald, performances by the Chan-O-Laires, and participation from local scout troops and honor guard. Shuttle service and golf carts ensured accessibility to the pavilion.

Below is a summary of ceremony highlights, feedback, and considerations for future planning.

BACKGROUND

DISCUSSION

The City of Chanhassen partnered with the Chanhassen American Legion Post 580 to present the annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 26. This year's ceremony was relocated from City Center Park to the Al Klingelhutz Memorial Pavilion at Lake Ann Park due to ongoing construction. The new location featured natural shade and covered shelter, which was well-received by attendees. The event began at 12:00 PM and was attended

by over 500 guests.

Cemetery Services

As tradition, the morning began with cemetery services at Leach Cemetery (7:45 a.m.), Chanhassen Pioneer Cemetery (8:15 a.m.), and St. Hubert's Cemetery (10:15 a.m.), coordinated and conducted by the Chanhassen American Legion Honor Guard.

Formal Ceremony

The formal ceremony at the pavilion included:

- Posting of the branch flags behind the stage
- Keynote address by Jon Lovald, COO of MACV and retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel
- Musical performances by the Chan-O-Laires, who led the audience in “America the Beautiful,” “God Bless America,” and “Salute to the Armed Forces Medley”
- Invocation and Benediction by Father Wil Kratt of St. Hubert Church
- Presentation of the Battlefield Cross display
- Final Honors including a ceremonial rifle salute and the playing of Taps.

Accessibility and Amenities

Efforts were made to ensure the ceremony was accessible and comfortable for all guests. Highlights included:

- Southwest Transit trolley shuttle service beginning at 11:00 a.m. from designated parking lots around Lake Ann Park
- Two ADA units and two standard portable restrooms on site with a special cleaning scheduled the morning of the event
- Golf cart transport operated by staff to assist with transporting attendees from parking areas
- Reserved parking for Honor Guard, seniors, and performers
- Water table provided by the City and the Chanhassen Fire Department (duty crew on standby)

Community Engagement

The Commission on Aging hosted a table featuring “Revitalizing Veterans Dreams,” a local nonprofit serving veterans. Guests were invited to learn more and donate. Recognition for both the nonprofit and the Commission was incorporated into the ceremony.

Event Support & Logistics

- Audio, staging, and microphones were provided by Festival Sound
- Park Maintenance staff provided setup, signage placement, and support beginning at 6:00 a.m.
- Over 500 printed programs were distributed
- Directional signage, Taps notice signs, and shuttle signage were placed throughout the park

Recommendations for 2026

- Consider continuing to use Klingelhutz Pavilion as an alternative venue
- Maintain partnership with Southwest Transit and golf cart support for accessibility
- Maintain Battlefield Cross and branch flag staging as a strong visual tribute
- Continue strong collaboration between City departments and the American Legion Post 580

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

[2025 Memorial Day Program](#)

[2025 Memorial Day Flyer](#)

[Memorial Day Ceremony 2025 Budget](#)