

Park & Recreation Commission Item

June 23, 2026



Item	2026 Memorial Day Evaluation
Item No:	H.1
Agenda Section	<u>REPORTS</u>
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SUGGESTED ACTION

SUMMARY

The 2026 Memorial Day Ceremony was held on Monday, May 25 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 marked the second year the ceremony was held at Lake Ann Park, and the location continues to be well-received, providing scenic surroundings, a covered shelter and ample space for attendees.

The event included morning cemetery services at Leach Cemetery, Chanhassen Pioneer Cemetery, and St. Hubert's Cemetery, followed by the formal ceremony at noon. Highlights of the program featured a keynote address by U.S. Army veteran and educator Miki Huntington, musical performances by the Chan-O-Laires, and participation from local scout troops and the honor guard. Volunteer-driven golf carts were utilized to ensure full 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 25. This marked the second year the ceremony was held at the Al Klingelhutz Memorial Pavilion at Lake Ann Park, and the location continues to be well-received by attendees for its scenic surroundings, natural shade and covered shelter. The event began at 12 p.m. and was well-attended by community members.

Cemetery Services

Following 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 Miki Huntington, M.A., CPC, and U.S. Army veteran
- Musical performances by the Chan-O-Laires, who led the audience in "The Star-Spangled Banner," "God Bless America," "Salute to the Armed Forces" and "You're a Grand Old Flag"
- Invocation and Benediction by Fr. Ralph Talbot 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:

- Volunteer-driven golf cart transport to assist with moving attendees from the parking areas to the pavilion starting at 11 a.m.
- Two ADA units and two standard portable restrooms on site, with a special cleaning scheduled the morning of the event
- Reserved parking for Honor Guard, seniors and performers
- Water table provided by the city and the Chanhassen Fire Department

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, skirting and microphones were provided by Festival Sound
- Park Maintenance staff provided setup, signage placement and support beginning at 7 a.m.
- Directional and reserved parking signage (printed on cardstock for day-of deployment) was placed throughout the park

Recommendations for 2027

- Maintain Battlefield Cross and branch flag staging as a strong visual tribute
- Maintain volunteer golf cart drivers for park accessibility.
- Continue the strong collaboration between city departments and the American Legion Post 580.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

[Memorial Day Program 2026.pdf](#)

[2026 Memorial Day Flyer.pdf](#)

[Memorial Day Ceremony 2026 Budget.pdf](#)