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Middletown Elks slates Memorial Day services

The Middletown Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge No. 2179 will hold a Memorial Day service on Monday, May 29, starting at noon, on the front lawn of the Elks Lodge, 251 Church St., in the Belford section of Middletown. Scouts of Middletown Boy Scouts of America Troop 242, Harmony School, will participate as honor guards to veterans in attendance at the ceremony.

Memorial Day, originally called "Decoration Day," is a day to honor those who have died in our nation's service. It was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by the Grand Army of the Republic, naming May 30, 1868, as a day "... for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country." In 1882, the name was changed to "Memorial Day," and soldiers who had died in other wars were also honored. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday.

The Elks consider Memorial Day to be one of the most important events of the year and they invite the public to attend the ceremony to honor those who, in Abraham Lincoln's words "gave the last full measure of devotion."



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