

2024 Memorial Day Ceremony

SCRIPT

The members of the Woodbury Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9024 and Woodbury American Legion Post 501 welcome you to today's Memorial Day Ceremony.

Ever since Memorial Day was established in 1868, it has been a day for remembering and honoring the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

We would like to thank The Combat Helicopters LLC, New Richmond, WI for the flyover of the UH1 Helicopters.

Thanks to The Twin Cities Trumpet Ensemble for their great patriotic music leading up to our program.

Our ceremony begins with Pipe Major Lynn Ista leading the Woodbury High School Air Force Junior ROTC, the Patriotic Heritage Allegiant Honor Guard, the Cat's Meow Color Guard, the Scouts BSA Troop 559 Color Guard, the Vietnamese Vietnam War Veterans Honor Guard, the Como Park High School USMC JROTC Color Guard, the Nurses Honor Guard, and the Civil Air Patrol - Stanton Squadron Color Guard. Please stand and render honors as our national colors approach your location and hold your honors until the colors have passed you by.

For honors, veterans are authorized to render the hand salute along with the uniformed troops present. All gentlemen in civilian attire should remove their hats and will the remainder of the audience, please stand tall and face the flag with your hand over your heart.

Once the flags are posted, the National Anthem will be sung by Lisa Benson from the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.

RUDIN: "PRESENT THE COLORS!"

(Present the Colors is the que for the bagpiper to strike in and lead with a quick march tune. When the AFJROTC Color Guard posts the colors, the command "Present, Arms!" is for all who are present at the site.

*If need be, **RUDIN** will repeat the command if the audience has not responded.*

"Present, Arms! is the que for the National Anthem to be sung.

At the conclusion of the National Anthem, the AFJROTC will command "Order, Arms!"

*Again, if need be, **RUDIN** will repeat the command if the audience has not responded.*

The command "Order, Arms!" is the que for the bagpiper to strike in and start playing a retreat march. The AFJROTC will lead out followed by the units in the same succession as they came in and the bagpipers follows everyone out.)

RUDIN: "Please remain standing for the invocation by **Pastor DAVE LARSON** of St. John Lutheran Church of Woodbury.

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RUDIN: "Thank you, **Pastor Larson**. Please be seated".

If you haven't already taken the opportunity to view the awesome Military displays, we have here today, please make sure you do so after the ceremony. A special thanks to all the contributors of these displays. We also have several veteran assistance organizations here today. Please visit them to see what they have to offer you as a veteran.

I would like to make a few introductions, please welcome:

Woodbury Mayor Anne Burt and her husband, **Jeff**, Woodbury's First Dude.

Our keynote speaker, **LTC Nicole Lynn Mitchell** and her stepfather, **CMSGT (USAF) (Ret) Bill Brown** and her two sons, **Liam and Sam Mitchell**

VFW Post 9024 Commander, **Paul Lindahl**

VFW Post 9024 Auxiliary President, **Cynthia Fritsche**

American Legion Post 501 Commander, **Bob Dolan**

National Anthem singer, **Lisa Benson**, of the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Pastor **DAVE LARSON**, of St. John Lutheran Church

The members of the various color and honor guards and Woodbury American Legion-VFW Joint Rifle Squad.

(Mayor Burt will introduce any political dignitaries present, Paul Lindahl and Bob Dolan will introduce their guests.)

Please welcome **Mayor Burt**

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RUDIN: Thank you **Mayor Burt**

Please welcome **Bob Dolan**, Commander, American Legion Post 501.

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RUDIN: Thank you, **Commander Dolan**.

Now please welcome **Paul Lindahl**, Commander, VFW Post 9024.

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Thank you, **Commander Lindahl**.

RUDIN: Members of the Como Park High School USMC JROTC Color Guard will present a wreath in honor of our fallen comrades and the more than 100 Minnesota veterans who have been lost due to suicide in 2023.

Terry Thronson of Bells for Eternity, Rochester, MN, will toll the bell ten times and then there will be a three-volley cannon salute by Battery "I" 1st US Artillery. Parents are advised that the sudden loud noise of the large bell and cannon shots may be frightening to small children.

RUDIN: I invite you to stand as we pay tribute to our fallen comrades.

RUDIN: "**Present, Arms!**"

The Como Park High School USMC JROTC Color Guard places the wreath. As soon as it is placed on the stand, the large bell will be rung ten times. At the conclusion of the bell tolls, the cannon will shoot three volleys. The audience and veterans are to hold their salute until the cannon salute is completed.

RUDIN: "**Order, Arms!**"

RUDIN: "**You may be seated.**"

RUDIN: "Now the Patriotic Heritage Allegiant Honor Guard will do a short silent rifle drill demonstration."

The PHAHG will march in and do their routine and then will march out. As they march out:

RUDIN: Thank you, ladies of the Patriotic Heritage Allegiant Honor Guard.

RUDIN: It is now my pleasure to introduce our keynote speaker, **LTC Nicole Lynn Mitchell**.

Nicole Mitchell was raised in Minnesota and graduated from Woodbury High School in 1993. She began her career in weather right out of High School, when she joined the Air National Guard and was trained by the military first as a Weather Observer, then as a Weather Forecaster.

Her military work has given her the opportunity to forecast weather around the country and the world—including working in Europe during military operations in Kosovo and Bosnia, as well as in Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

She started her broadcast career at a TV station in Duluth, MN and later working as a TV meteorologist across the country. She moved back home to Minnesota in 2016 to raise her son while contributing as a meteorologist to both Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) and KSTP-TV, but she left both companies when she ran for the State Senate.

In 2022, she was elected to the Minnesota Legislature as a state senator for District 47, representing Woodbury and south Maplewood.

Her military career includes:

MN ANG, Weather Observer and Forecaster for the 208th WF (under the 133rd AW) 1992-2001.

IN ANG, Forecaster then Weather Officer for the 207th WF (commission in 2002) 2001-2003.

AF Reserve, Aerial Reconnaissance Weather Officer for the 53rd WRS (the Hurricane Hunters) 2003-2019.

She is currently a Lieutenant Colonel in the Wisconsin Air National Guard. She is Commander, 126th Weather Flight, 2019 to present.

PLEASE WELCOME LTC MITCHELL.

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RUDIN: LTC MITCHELL, Thank you so much for your presentation.

RUDIN: Presenting our Last Roll Call are **Tina Lenling** of the Woodbury VFW and **Terry Thronson** of Bells for Eternity, Rochester, MN. Tina will be reading the names of *(work in progress) for the Last Roll Call.*

For those who aren't familiar with the Last Roll Call, it is part of a memorial ceremony when a soldier has died in the line of duty. The Company First Sergeant calls off the names of members of the unit. Each soldier then responds with "Here, First Sergeant". The fallen soldiers' names are then called.

The Woodbury American Legion-VFW Joint Rifle Squad fires the three volleys and then Taps is played.

I invite you to stand as we pay tribute to our fallen comrades.

*(The casket is carried or moved into position. As soon as the casket starts to move the order "Present, Arms!" is given by **RUDIN**.*

*The casket is placed in position. The Casket bearers face the casket and do a slow salute (three count-up, three count-hold, & three count-down.) As the salute is dropped, **RUDIN: "Order, Arms!"** to the audience. The casket bearers do a facing movement and march a short distance away.*

*For The Last Roll Call, the **(WORK IN PROGRESS)** will be read, and the bell rung for each name.*

*Once completed, the Last Roll Call members remain in place, facing the casket. **Flag folders** move to the casket.)*

RUDIN: The Woodbury American Legion-VFW Joint Rifle Squad will now render a three-volley salute for the deceased of all wars. Parents are advised that the sudden loud noise of the gunshots may be frightening to small children.

RUDIN: "Present, Arms!"

Three volley salute. Rifle squad turns to face the flag/podium and goes to Present Arms.

Taps is played by TC Trumpet Ensemble. Everyone holds their salute while until Taps is completed.)

RUDIN: "Order, Arms!"

*The **Flag Folders** (Patriotic Heritage Allegiant Honor Guard) remove the flag from the casket and holds it above the casket.*

*The flag is now folded while "**Amazing Grace**" is played on the bagpipes. It usually takes the same amount of time to fold the flag as it does for playing "Amazing Grace."*

*The flag is placed on a stand and saluted by the **Flag Folders**.*

*The **Flag Folders** march off followed by the **Last Roll Call** members.*

RUDIN: Pastor **DAVE LARSON** will now deliver the benediction.

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RUDIN: Thank you, Pastor Larson.

RUDIN: The Air Force Junior ROTC will now retire the colors. As when the national colors were first presented, please stand, and render honors as the colors approach your location and hold your honors until the colors have passed you by.

RUDIN: “RETIRE THE COLORS”

This is the cue for the bagpiper to strike in a quick march tune and lead the Woodbury AF JROTC color guard in. The AFJROTC commander gives commands to Present Arms/Order Arms to just the JROTC color Guard. Just as the colors are marched out:

RUDIN: “Present, Arms!”

Allow enough time for the colors to leave the area. When the colors have moved a significant distance from the Veterans’ Memorial:

RUDIN: “Order, Arms!”

RUDIN: The Woodbury Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Posts thank everyone for attending today’s Memorial Day Ceremony and the opening ceremony presented by:

PIPE MAJOR LYNN ISTA, Bagpiper

WOODBURY HIGH SCHOOL AIR FORCE JROTC

PATRIOTIC HERITAGE ALLEGIANT HONOR GUARD

CAT’S MEOW COLOR GUARD

SCOUTS BSA TROOP 559

VIETNAMESE ARVN HONOR GUARD

COMO PARK HIGH SCHOOL USMC JROTC COLOR GUARD

NURSES HONOR GUARD

CIVIL AIR PATROL - STANTON SQUADRON COLOR GUARD

Also, we would like to thank all the contributors of the wonderful displays and veterans support and services informational booths we have this year.

For anyone wishing to have a paver dedicated at this memorial for a friend or loved one, we have a table in the area where you can get some information.

And last, we hope you will remain to enjoy the fresh frozen custard courtesy of Culver's of Woodbury.

Thank you all and have a blessed day.