

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Remember our nation's heroes this Memorial Day

This Monday is Memorial Day, a time to honor those intrepid men and women who have given their lives in the defense of our nation. We'll commemorate the day with an annual parade down Narragansett Avenue, followed by a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Square at East Ferry.

Monday is a work holiday. The island folk will play in the great outdoors. Families and friends will gather for cookouts.

On a historical note, Memorial Day has a somber side. Originally referred to as Decoration Day, the holiday was created to honor our nation's many Civil War dead.

Today, we remember and honor those who have died in our nation's service.

Memorial Day was first observed in May of 1868 when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The observance grew state by state over the years. After World War I, the observance was expanded to include all of those who died in U.S. wars.

It wasn't until 1971 that Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday. The day is legally observed on the last Monday in May. The traditional observance is May 30.

American men and women continue to go in harm's way in the service of their country. Right or wrong, our country is still fighting battles in far away lands and U.S. soldiers are dying every day. Take a few moments this Monday to remember and honor those who have made the greatest sacrifice.

Memorial Day is a time to honor our nation's real heroes.

— Jeff McDonough



Self-serving group mistreats Turillo

Although the attacks on September 11th have changed the context, popularity and the usage of such words as: sacrifice, patriotism, and hero, it has not kept the vast majority of the population from misrepresenting themselves through these words. We believe we are committing an act of sacrifice when we listen to the President speak about "sacrifice." We feel that we are fulfilling an act of patriotism when we raise the flag, or attach bumper stickers to our cars. When, in reality, if this is all we have done, then all we have accomplished is to have "talked the talk."

• LETTERS •

In our community there are people who have silently "walked the walk." They have known the meaning of sacrifice, patriotism and true heroic acts. I am referring to the men and women who have served in the war on terror. Though I know there are many in our community, I do not know of all of them and for this I truly apologize. I do know of Mr. Michael Turillo, a civilian soldier, who left his four little children, his wife, and his home to go to a foreign land to fight a war.

Though I do not know Mr. Turillo personally, I

doubt that he was filled with joy when he was called to serve in Iraq. I imagine that he and his wife had many sleepless nights of anticipation: one less parent to read to the kids at night, to say prayers with them, to tuck them into bed. I have no doubt if asked why he went, he would reply to make the world safe for his children. In making the world safe for his children, Mr. Turillo is making it safe for our children. Mr. Turillo's act of sacrifice may have kept him from such things as accompanying his children to their first day of school, wit-

nessing his son's first catch of a baseball, escorting his daughter to the "Sweet Heart Dance;" but his sacrifice of these opportunities allowed us to experience these once in a lifetime parental moments. Mr. Turillo served so we wouldn't have to.

"We," who are fortunate enough to be able to afford to live in this community (are so because, unlike Mr. Turillo and those of his special ilk, we were not called away from our jobs for six to 18 months to go and fight in a war) should be outraged at what has recently happened to Mr. Turillo's family.

Mr. Turillo, after com-

Letters continued on page 8

The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 100 years ago from the Newport Daily News came from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, May 20, 1907

Dr. John Sweet of Newport visited the island Saturday afternoon in his automobile.

Champlin's lighter discharged a cargo of gasoline on Knowle's wharf today for the lighting of the Bay View House.

From the Newport Daily News, May 22, 1907

There was a runaway on ferry wharf yesterday afternoon. Two small boys with a horse and tipcart came to the landing for a small quantity of lumber. In loading it onto the wagon, it projected over the horse's head, and as they were about to start up the wharf some of the lumber sprung enough to hit the horse's head starting him on the run. The lumber was distributed along Walcott Avenue, but as the horse turned west on Narragansett Avenue Mr. Benjamin McLyman caught him by the bit, stopping the runaway without damage to horse, cart or boys.

From the Newport Daily News, May 24, 1907

The new stable and automobile house combined, for Mr. J. M. Whitall of Philadelphia, on his property on Bay View Drive, is nearly covered in.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, May 21, 1932

The Beavertail Country Club will open officially Memorial Day. The tea room, as last season, will be under the supervision of Mrs. Alfred Weeden, and William O'Hanley, professional golfer, will also be at the club.

From the Newport Daily News, May 26, 1932

Following is the Memorial Day program, when all organizations will be in line at 9 a.m. Monday. ... The reviewing stand will be located at the town hall.

Tollefson & Dewick have opened their fish market for the summer.

From the Newport Daily News, May 27, 1932



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of May 24

(At the town council meeting) G. C. Allen and other summer residents protested to the council in regard to the high rate charged for the summer lights. (They) voted (that) the town clerk communicate with the Newport Electric Company in connection with these protests.

The town clerk was instructed to order 27 tons of calcium chloride to be used on the town's roads from the Salvary State Corporation.

(At the school committee meeting) A. M. Clarke and A. A. Boone, who were appointed a committee to secure the local theatre for graduation exercises, reported that the theatre could be obtained for one evening for the exercises for \$35.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, May 21, 1957

The Jamestown Water Company has opened its ponds to residents of Jamestown for fishing. Under the direction of Howard O'Connell of the state Department of Agriculture, the ponds have been stocked with 1,500 blue gills and 500 bass and residents will be allowed to fish in these waters providing they observe the fishing regulations, have licenses and passes from the water company.

From the Newport Daily News, May 22, 1957

Mainly because of Navy objections, the Advisory Commission of the R.I. State Development Council today opposed construction of the Commerce Oil Corporation's proposed refinery in Jamestown.

From the Newport Daily News, May 23, 1957

Despite an adverse report of the State Development Council's advisory commission, the Commerce Oil Refining Corp. today announced its intentions "to begin the con-

struction of our refinery on Conanicut Island as soon as possible."

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, May 21, 1982

Jamestown School will receive \$1,733 less than expected from the state's \$2.1 million block grant for the 1982-82 school year.

The School Committee adopted a resolution Tuesday night calling for a freeze on the nuclear arms race to be followed by negotiations for a reduction of weapons.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, May 21, 1992

Every ten years, a census is taken of the nation to gather data on people and their living conditions. ... Here in Jamestown, we use statistics gathered from census data primarily in preparing plans for the town's future and in applications to various agencies for grant funding. ... Jamestown's population climbed to 4,999 in 1990, up 24 percent since 1980. The number of housing units in Jamestown has increased 24 percent from 2,052 units to 2,517.

New trash containers have been installed in the downtown area as a joint project of the Jamestown Village Association and the Quononoquott Garden Club.

Jamestown's annual Memorial Day parade on Monday officially kicks off the island summer season.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, May 22, 1997

The nine winners of the May 7 town election were sworn into office Monday night before a standing-room-only crowd. Lt. Gov. Bernard A. Jackvony administered the oath of office to Town Councilmen Tot Wright, Craig Amerigan, David Dolce, William Murphy, and Fred Pease.

Sitting as the Board of Water and sewer Commissioners Monday night, newly sworn Town Council members received a proposed budget for this year that could increase water rates by 7.5 percent and sewer rates by 5 percent.