

Dear Bloomfield Community;

As you may have heard, our community will be commemorating Memorial Day with a virtual ceremony in lieu of the traditional parade and in-person ceremonies. While we are disappointed that we will not be together for the traditional Memorial Day activities this year, we are proud of the commitment so many have demonstrated to ensure Memorial Day and the sacrifices the day represents will never be forgotten. The decision to move to a virtual ceremony was extremely difficult for all involved. In the end all four municipal leaders and American Legion Commander Bob Spike agreed that holding the ceremony virtually was the right thing to do for our community at this time. We recognize that this unanimous decision will, in all likelihood, create some frustration - but we firmly believe, given the information we had at the time the decision was made, it was best. This decision, as with many of the decisions made during the COVID pandemic, has the ability to create division in our community. Our hope is that the community chooses to focus on the meaning of the day and unite around the sacrifices the day represents, rather than focus on what we do not have.

On Monday, May 31st, we will be releasing the Memorial Day virtual ceremony to the community through the Bloomfield Central School District website, and the BCS Facebook Page and social media accounts. In addition, the Town of East Bloomfield, Town of West Bloomfield, Town of Bristol, Village of Bloomfield, the Bloomfield Rotary and the Bloomfield Lions Club will be releasing the virtual ceremony on their websites and through email blasts. At 11:00 AM, those within the village of Bloomfield will hear church bells ring throughout the community as a somber reminder that this day commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made for our country and for the freedoms we hold so dear.

Please know that we have been encouraged by the recent changes in guidance and by the recent lifting of many of the COVID restrictions that have been a barrier to gathering. Unfortunately, these restrictions were not lifted in time for us to coordinate an in-person Memorial Day celebration, but we are already beginning plans for an in-person July 4 celebration in Bloomfield. The weight of the COVID-19 pandemic has been heavy on our community and we look forward to celebrating the birth of our country with you in-person in July.

Respectfully,

Fred Wille- Town of East Bloomfield
Todd Campbell- Town of West Bloomfield
Robert Green- Town of Bristol
Mark Falsone- Village of Bloomfield
Andy Doell- Bloomfield Central Schools