

First, I would like to thank all of you for coming out today – the fact that you are here is acknowledgement that you understand the true meaning of today's observances –

On Memorial Day, we are not honoring those who have served, but those that made the ultimate sacrifice. Those brave men and women who gave their last full measure of devotion in the defense of this country. They shed their blood so that we could be free and commemorate this solemn day with our loved ones.

For those that have attended my events in the past, you would know that I always like to pay homage to those Barrington Heroes that fought and died. Today I wish to pay my respect to Barrington's Greatest Generation.

During World War 2 over 1000 men and women of Barrington answered our nation's call, representing just over 16% of the town's population at the time.

But 26 of our native sons would have their lives cut short, with many being laid to rest on foreign lands or lost in distant seas. These men were fathers, sons, brothers, nephews, cousins and friends.

They are more than just names on a bronze plaque and hopefully, for a moment in time, I can bring back some of their memories - As one is never truly dead until they are forgotten.

So, I will recount their lives in chronological order from which they left us using historical and genealogical data. Please forgive me for any errors of omission due to clerical inaccuracies of the record...

Earl R. Adams, Jr. US Merchant Marines KIA February 21, 1942

- Resident of 132 Bay Spring Rd, attended Barrington Peck High School and was a Congregant of St. Luke's Church.
- His younger brother, Albert Adams also killed in WW2.
- Was an Ordinary Seaman aboard an unarmed and unescorted oil tanker named the SS J. N. Pew. It was enroute from Aruba to the Canal Zone when it was torpedoed by U-67 on its port side. The tanker became engulfed in the flames but the crew managed to deploy two lifeboats.
- One boat came ashore 4 days later with 2 survivors; however, the other with 11 on board remained adrift for 21 days, when finally recovered only one was alive.
- Son of Earl R. Adams Sr and the late Kathleen (Healy) Adams

- Due to a shortage of able body seamen, the Merchant Marine had the lowest enlistment age; Earl was just 16 years old at the time of his death.
- His body was lost at sea and never recovered.

Rene Leger US Army Air Corps DNB Incident August 9, 1942

- His family resided at 178 Narragansett Ave, but he had grown up Riverside and was a Graduate of EP HS. Prior to the war, was employed by contractor, Theodore Ellis and enlisted in the US Army Air Corps 20 JAN 1942
- SSG Leger was assigned to the 415th Bomber Squadron, 98th Heavy Bomber Group which deployed to the Middle East in June 1942 to support Operations in North Africa.
- He was killed when his B-24 Bomber flying out of Ramat David, Palestine crashed due to a non-battle related incident.
- Son of Andrew Legere and had just married Vera Wright of Lakeland, FL four weeks before shipping out.
- Buried in North African Cemetery, Tunisia and was 22 years old

John Edward Brendle US Merchant Marines KIA October 29, 1942

- Son of German immigrants
- Was a Merchant Marine Ordinary Seaman on the steamer, SS Gurney E. Newlin, torpedoed by U-436 in the North Atlantic while in convoy to Manchester, England.
- Three were killed in the initial attack; however, 45 were killed when the rescue ship, SS Bic Island was torpedoed the following night.
- Left behind a wife Bertha Farrol Brendle of who was residing with her Uncle Homer Giquere of 127 Narragansett Ave, Barrington
- Lost at Sea
- 41 Years Old

Frank J. Chianese

US Navy

KIA

July 10, 1943

- Lived on 178 Whipple St. Graduate of Barrington Peck High School
- Class of 1931 and was a Congregant of Holy Angels Church
- Was a Seaman 1st Class in USNR and was killed during
Amphibious Operations in support of the Allied invasion of Sicily,
known as Operation Husky
- He was the son of Italian Immigrants: John and Vittoria Chianese
- Buried in Sicily-Rome American Cemetery
- 19 Years Old

John T. Zompa

US Navy

KIA

November 17, 1943

- Resided at 23 County Rd., attended Barrington Peck High School, was a Congregant of Holy Angels Church and was the younger brother of Michael Zompa also KIA in WWII
- Was a Machinist Mate 2nd Class aboard the USS McKean (High Speed Transport APD-5 – Transport Destroyer)
- It was transporting Marines to Bougainville in the Solomon Islands when it was hit by a torpedo and subsequently sunk - killing 116 of the 324 on board
- Son of Mary & the late Louis Zompa both Originally from Italy
- Lost at Sea
- 19 Years Old

George Sambanis

US Army Air Corps

KIA

December 20, 1943

- Was a SGT & Tail Gunner on the B24 "Sky Queen" of the 576th Bomber Squadron, 392 Bomber Group Heavy
- Shot down during bombing mission over Bremen, Germany
- He left behind a wife believed to be from Barrington and his parents Steve Sambanis (originally from Greece) and Mary Sambanis from Providence
- Buried in Netherlands American Cemetery
- 25 Years Old

John F. Wilkes US Army Air Corps (w/ RAF) KIA April 10,1944

- Resided at 132 County Rd.
- Was Flight Officer attached to the RAF from the 12th Replacement Depot, was the bombardier for Lancaster MK 3 Bomber that was lost during a Night Bombing Mission
- Husband of Olive (Davis) Wilkes and Son of Alfred & Sadie Wilkes of Attleboro, MA
- Buried in the Normandy American Cemetery, France
- 36 Years Old

Bernard J. Marshall

US Army

DOW June 13, 1944

- Resided at 78 Walnut Rd.
- Was a PFC in the 5307th Infantry RGT (Provisional) better known as "Merrill's Marauders".
- Marauders were an elite unit known to fight deep behind enemy lines and often outnumbered. 75th Ranger Battalion traces its lineage to the WW2 Marauders.
- Wounded during the Battle of Nhpum Ga, Burma on 8 April 1944. During the battle the Marauders killed 400 Japanese soldiers while sustaining only 57 KIAs, but 302 were wounded. Although evacuated to the US, Bernard later succumbed to his wounds.
- Son of Frank & Katherine Marshall
- Buried in Long Island National Cemetery, NY

- 29 Years old

Michael Zompa US Army (Air Corps) DNB Accident June 29, 1944

- Resided at 23 County Rd., attended Barrington Peck High School, was a Congregant of Holy Angels Church, and the Brother of John Zompa who died in WWII 7 months earlier.
- Served with the Hampden Meadows Fire Department before the war and was a Congregant of Holy Angels Church
- Was a Tech SGT in US Army aboard a B24 Bomber traveling from Palm Spring AAF Base when it crashed 2 Miles North of Conway Springs, KS.
- Son of Mary and the late Louis Zompa - both originally from Italy
- Buried in Santa Maria del Campo Cemetery
- 24 Years Old

John DiCicco

US Army

KIA

July 18, 1944

- Lived at 63 Hamilton Ave., and attended Barrington Peck High School and was a Congregant of Holy Angels Church.
- PFC DiCicco was assigned to the 330th Infantry Regiment, 83rd ID killed during the Battle of the Hedgerows during the breakout following the Normandy D-Day Invasion.
- Son of Gaetano & Pasqualina DiCicco
- Buried in Santa Maria Del Campo Cemetery
- 20 Years old

William H. Merritt

US Army

KIA

August 17, 1944

- Resided at 11 Lincoln Ave. and was a graduate of the Barrington Peck HS class of 1931 - Described as quiet and studious and Played Football and Basketball.
- Had left his studies at Wesleyan University to serve in the War
- Capt Merritt was a Company Commander of 3rd Company, 1st Regiment Battalion, 1st Special Service Force "Devil's Brigade" (A Joint US & Canadian Force & Precursor to the US Special Forces)
- Killed during Operation Dragoon in Southern France, while taking out German Fortifications on the Island de Port-Cros off the coast of Toulon. His company took up positions along the ridges that flanked the star-shaped Fort L'Estissac near Port Cros. Once dark,

his men moved closer to surround the fort. Launching the attack at 2030hrs. They were met by a hail of machine gun fire and hand grenades. They returned fire with high explosive rockets to knock down the main gate. With him leading the way an assault group rushed headlong into the fort's central courtyard. A savage battle erupted and continued until 3rd Company was finally able to bring enough men and firepower within the fort to overcome the tenacious German defense. In the end the storming of the fort yielded 23 prisoners, but had cost the lives of four men, including Captain Merritt. He was awarded the Silver Star for his heroic actions.

- His parents were Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Merritt
- Buried in Rhone American Cemetery, France.
- 30 Years Old

Peter E. D'Elia

US Army

KIA

October 12, 1944

- He resided at 69 Anoka Ave.
- Before entering the service, he worked at Worthington Meat Packers of Providence and was a congregant of Holy Angels Church
- PVT D'Elia was assigned to the 351 IN RGT, 88th ID and died in Battle of Gesso. During this campaign the Division sustained over 6000 casualties after 45 days in Combat through November 1944.
- He was the son of Italian Immigrants - Giuseppe and Carmella D'Elia and left behind a wife Filomena (Pompeii) D'Elia.
- Buried in the Florence American Cemetery Italy with a memorial in Maria Del Campo Cemetery

- 30 Years Old - 5 days before his 31st Birthday

Anthony Carloni US Army KIA October 18, 1944

- Resided at 91 South St., attended Barrington Peck High School, was employed by (O'Bannon Mill) Collins & Aikman in West Barrington and was a Congregant of Holy Angels Church
- PVT Carloni was assigned to 142nd IN RGT, 36 ID and was killed in the Battle for Bruyeres
- Son of Italian immigrants: Domenic and Mary Carloni
- Buried in Epinal American Cemetery, France,
- 24 Years Old

Alexander Ridondo US Army KIA October 22, 1944

- Resided at 18 School Lane, attended Barrington Peck High School, was a Congregant of Holy Angels Church and was the Brother-in-Law with James Paolello
- PFC Ridondo was assigned to the 104th IN RGT, 26th ID.
- He was killed during combat operations to clear the Moncourt Woods, where his unit faced 14 pill boxes and a heavily dug in German 11th Panzer DIV.
- Husband of Anna (Paolello) Ridondo & Son of Antonio Ridondo originally from Italy
- Buried in Lorraine American Cemetery, France
- 24 Years Old

Edgar P. Beaver

US Army Air Corps

KIA

December 23, 1944

- Resided at 239 New Meadow Rd., and was a graduate of Peck High School - Class of 1939; Played Basketball, Football and Baseball, and was in the Glee, Operetta and Business Clubs
- Was studying business at Rhode Island State College before leaving after two years to go to flight school.
- He was in the 885th Bomb Squadron, 450th Bomb Group (Heavy) and was a 2LT and Co-Pilot Flight Officer of the B24 "Lady Mary" when it crashed off the Yugoslavian Coast, during a Special Mission to resupply Partisan Forces in the Balkans. He and all 11 crew members were killed.
- Son of Edward and Gladys Beaver

- There is a Memorial to him in the Forest Chapel Cemetery
- He was killed on his 23rd Birthday.

Erick C. Swenson US Army Air Corps KIA December 23, 1944

- Resided at 15 River View Dr. and before the war was a machine operator at Lindon & Co, Providence, RI
- Barrington Peck High School Class of 1935 and attended RIC
- Was a Tech SGT assigned to the 599th Bomber Squadron, 397th Bomber Group Medium and was serving as a Radio Operator/Gunner on the B26 Marauder "Miss Furie" when it was shot down on his 63rd mission during a bombing raid on the Eller railroad bridge in the Battle of Bulge.
- Husband of Louis Swenson of 195 Sisson St, Pawtucket, RI. Son of Swedish immigrants: Carl & Maria Swenson
- Buried in the Luxemburg American Cemetery

- 27 Years old

Edward Valenti

US Army

KIA

December 25, 1944

- Resided at 148 Maple Ave .and was a Congregant of Holy Angels Church
- PFC was assigned to the 735th Tank Battalion attached to the 26th ID and was killed while taking Arsdorf on Christmas Day during the Battle of the Bulge. His Battalion was often outgunned by heavier German Panther and Tiger Tanks.
- Husband of Mildred Valenti of 40 Arlington Ave, E. Warren. Son of Domenic & the late Maria (Pompeii) Valenti originally from Italy
- Buried in the Luxemberg American Cemetery
- 31 Years old

James Paolello

US Army

KIA

January 15, 1945

- Resided at 26 Kirby St., was a Congregant of Holy Angels Church and was the brother-in-law of Alexander Ridondo killed 3 months earlier
- PVT was assigned to the 346th Engineer Gen Services Regiment and was killed during the Battle of the Bulge in Between Liege and Tongren, Belgium.
- He left behind his mother Mrs. Josephine Paolello - originally from the Azores, Portugal
- Buried in the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Belgium,
- 22 Years old

Charles Rapoza

US Army

KIA

January 28, 1945

- 159 Foot St, Barrington, was a Congregant of Holy Angels Church and worked for Blount Ice Company in Barrington before the war.
- SGT was assigned to 30th IN RGT, 3rd ID (Audi Murphy's Regiment) and was killed during combat operations to Clear the Colmar Pocket in Alsace, France.
- Left behind wife, Margie (Conte) Rapoza and 28 month old Son, Charles Jr.,
- Was the Son of Mr & Mrs Louis Rapoza of 123 Bay View Ave in Bristol.
- Buried in Epinal American Cemetery, France.
- 25 Years old

Amos Cabral US Army KIA February 7, 1945

- Resided at 45 County Rd. "between the bridges" - Son of Portuguese Immigrants grew up on Beach Terrace in Warren
- Parents owned the Silver Creek Dairy and he was a Plumber Pipe Fitter before the war and was a Congregant of Holy Angels Church.
- PVT assigned to 44th IN RGT, 6th AD and was killed following the Battle of the Bulge as the Division was preparing to advance on the German Defenses along Siegfried Line
- Left Behind a wife Lucy (Dorzi) Cabral and a daughter, Sally and son, Amos, Jr.
- Buried in the Luembourg American Cemetery
- 27 Years Old

Roland O. Cusson

US Army

KIA

March 19, 1945

- He had resided at 391 Maple Ave. and was a Congregant of Holy Angels Church.
- Was a Tech Sgt assigned to 43rd IN Division was killed during the Battle of Luzan in the Philippines.
- Husband of Carolyn (Colosanti) Cusson and a daughter, Barbara Ann Cusson. He was the son of William and Ida (Ouellette) Cusson.
- Buried in Santa Maria Del Campo Cemetery & Has memorial in Saint Ambrose Cemetery Lincoln
- 30 Years Old

Albert W. Adams

US Navy

KIA

April 8, 1945

- Resided at 132 Bay Spring Ave, Congregants of St. Luke's Church, Younger Brother of Earl Adams Jr. a merchant marine killed 3 years earlier in the War.
- He attended Peck High School in Barrington before entering the service in JAN 1942
- Was a Baker 3rd Class assigned to Submarine USS Trout (SS-202). The sub was on its 5th patrol when Sunk by Japanese depth charges 8 April 1945. All hands (81) were killed.
- Son of Earl R. Adams and the late Kathleen Healy Adams
- Lost at Sea

- 24 Years old

Franklin N. Crowell, Jr US Army (Air Corps) KIA April 18, 1945

- Resided at 19 Highland Ave. and graduated in abstencia from the Barrington Peck HS with the class of 1943.
- He had entered the Army as a flying cadet in January 1943.
- Was a 2LT and bomber pilot with the 15th Air Force operating out of Italy running bombing missions to soften up the approaches to Bologna during the final missions of the Italian campaign. He was killed on his 20th mission after having written previous letters to his parents, recounting having had to fly back severely damaged aircraft on three previous missions.
- His was the son of Franklin and Marion Cromwell

- There is a memorial to him at the Brookdale Cemetery in Dedham, MA.
- 21 Yrs old

Peter Harrower

US Navy

KIA

May 4, 1945

- Resided at 97 Alfred Drowne Rd.
- He was a graduate of Barrington Peck High School class of 1935. Member of the Glee Club and played Baseball, Basketball and Football (Captain his Senior Year). Had plans to attend RIC
- Employed as a draftsman w/ RI Lace Works, Barrington before war.
- Gunners Mate 1st Class, USS Morrison (DD-560) which was sunk off the coast of Okinawa by Kamikazi Aircraft
- All 152 crewmembers were killed.
- Son of the late Peter Harrower Sr. and Hazel (Bovee) Harrower.

- Lost at Sea but has a memorial in Prince's Hill Cemetery.
- 28 Years old.

Frank S. Barnard, Jr. US Army DNB September 7, 1945

- Resided at 82 Middle Highway. and was a Congregant of Barrington Congregational Church. Left Barrington "Peck" High School his sophomore year to enlist in the US Army.
- Died from an injury sustained in an accident in Koeffering, Germany while assigned as a PVT in the 42nd Filed Hospital Corps in Germany.
- He was the son of Frank and Mary McLaughlin Barnard
- Initially interned in St Avold Cemetery in France, his body was later returned for burial in the Princess Hill Burial Grounds
- 22 Years old

They all served honorably and were willing to lay down their lives for our Country.

In Greek Orthodox Faith, we recite the following blessing at every funeral and use it as an expression of sympathy when someone loses a loved one.

So as I conclude my remarks, I will honor our fallen comrades the same refrain: “May their Memories be Eternal”