

## Summerville remembers fallen heroes

By Roger Lee rlee@journalscene.com May 29, 2017 Updated 22 hrs ago

America's fallen heroes were honored May 29 during a Memorial Day Service at Summerville/Parks Cemetery.

A consortium of local veterans service and civic organizations teamed up to orchestrate the service, which drew a large crowd of people wanting to ensure those who died in service to our country will always be remembered.



*From left, United States Submarine Veterans Inc., Charleston Base, Incoming Chief of the Boat Joe Lunn and Outgoing Chief of the Boat Ken Hutchison salute the American Flag.*

The ceremony began with a procession by the Scottish-American Military Society, Post 1860.

Dorchester County Veterans Affairs Officer Col. Ed Burns, United States Air Force, retired, handled the opening remarks and welcomes. U.S. Submarine Veterans, Charleston Base, Chaplain MTCM (SS) John Nichols, U.S. Navy, retired, gave an invocation and Mary Mizell sang the National Anthem before Burns led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced guest speaker Capt. Gerald Corcoran, United States Navy, retired.

Corcoran shared details regarding the history of Memorial Day and talked about the importance of the holiday.

“For those of us who have worn our nation’s uniform and especially for the families of our fallen heroes, Memorial Day is a time of profound remembrance,” Corcoran said. “We must pause to embrace our brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, who have answered their nation’s call. It should be a source of pride for everybody here that Summerville is one of the very few towns left in this country that holds a celebration like this.”

Corcoran used quotes from a Ronald Reagan speech about The Three Fighting Boys of Vietnam statue to inspire the crowd, telling them Americans should strive to stand together like those who fought in Vietnam stood together both during combat and after they returned home.

“We owe them something,” Corcoran quoted. “We owe them a promise that just as they did not forget their missing comrades, neither, ever, will we. And there are other promises. We must remember that peace is a fragile thing that needs constant vigils. We also owe them a promise to look at the world with a steady gaze and perhaps a resigned toughness, knowing that we have adversaries in the world and challenges and the only way to meet them is to maintain peace by staying strong.”

Corcoran also asked the crowd to do two things.

“First, remember why we have this holiday and why it is so important to remember those who have given their lives in the defense of freedom and their families,” he said. “Secondly, take some time to explain the significance of this holiday to someone in the younger generations. Your children and grandchildren don’t know as much about our country’s history as they should.”

After his speech, the Women Marines Association, SC-2 True Grits Chapter, placed a memorial wreath in the middle of the cemetery. After the performance of Amazing Grace by Kevin Smith of the Scottish American Military Society, the VFW Post 3433 Honor Guard gave a rifle volley and John Morrisett of Bugles Across America played Taps.

The ceremony concluded with a benediction by John Nichols.

The United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. was the primary sponsor for the 2017 Memorial Day Ceremony. Other participating organizations include American Legion Post 21, Summerville; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3433, Ladson; Scottish American Military Society Post 1860; Disabled American Veterans Chapter 17; Knights of Columbus Assembly 1900; Summerville Elks Lodge 2719; Women Marines Association, True Grits Chapter; Dorchester County Veterans Affairs Office; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3433, Auxiliary; and Summerville High School Navy J.R.O.T.C.