



Veterans Commission

TOWN OF BERLIN
240 Kensington Road
Kensington, CT 06037

For Immediate Release

May 17, 2020

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ARMED FORCES DAY - MAY 16, 2020

Over 1150 Flags were placed at Veterans Graves in 11 Berlin Cemeteries

(Berlin, CT) – Armed Forces Day is a day to pay tribute to the men and women who have served and who are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May and is part of Armed Forces Week.

President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish Armed Forces Day. The idea was for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. The one-day celebration then stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense. It was on August 31, 1949, that Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Coast Guard Days.

The Berlin Veterans Commission not only pays tribute to all these men and women, but also honors and remembers all of the town's veterans who have passed. Every year on Armed Forces Day, the Veterans Commission distributes around 1150 new American Flags to its members and volunteers to be placed at the graves of all Berlin's deceased veterans in the 11 cemeteries in town.

This year, the Berlin Veterans Commission met with over 30 Berlin Boy Scouts from Troop 41 and Troop 44, who volunteered to help the commission, on Saturday, May 16th at 10:00 am at the Maple Hill Cemetery. We all had face masks on and were very conscious of Social Distancing because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Maple Hill Cemetery is a classic New England rural cemetery with graves dating back to the 18th century and has about half of all the town's veterans' graves. We placed the flags at over 525 grave sites and the Boy Scouts got to see and learn about the many wars our veterans have fought in for the freedoms we enjoy today, as well as learning the meaning of Armed Forces Day.

The Berlin Veterans Commission would like to recognize and thank Scoutmaster KC Jones, the Scout leaders, and the Boy Scouts of Troop 41 and also Scoutmaster Tony deRito, the Scout leaders, and the Boy Scouts of Troop 44. Without their help, it would have taken hours longer to place these flags.

The attached pictures of the Boy Scouts and leaders and of Eagle Scout Don Roski, taken at the grave of his cousin Richard "Skip" Blankenburg was taken by Scout leader Lee Roski of Troop 41.

If any Veteran's grave was missed, please contact the Veterans Commission by mail at Berlin Town Hall, 240 Kensington Rd, Berlin, CT 06037.

To learn more about the history of the wars and see how many military men and women lost their lives, so we can enjoy the freedoms we have today, come to the Berlin Veterans Memorial Park and take a stroll around the "America's Wars Walkway".

America is Free, Because of the Brave. God Bless America!!!