



PROCLAMATION Memorial Day 2026

WHEREAS, Memorial Day is a day of reflection and solemn observance to honor the men and women of the armed forces who have lost their lives in service to their country; and

WHEREAS, what is now known as “Memorial Day” has its roots in Decoration Day – a day first observed on May 1, 1865 and led by Black soldiers including the 54th Massachusetts and the 34th and 104th U.S. Colored Troops, Black veterans, white missionaries, and newly emancipated Black citizens of Charleston, South Carolina to honor the dead Union troops buried at a planters’ racetrack; and

WHEREAS, we honor all men and women of all wars and conflicts who fought and died on behalf of our treasured ideals and do so with the clear-eyed recognition of the horrors war brings to all those it touches; and

WHEREAS, the military service members who have fallen in combat leave behind families and other loved ones who are left with the pain of their loss and carry that loss with them for the remainder of their days, experiencing the true cost of war in ways the majority of their countrymen and women cannot; and

WHEREAS, Memorial Day, in accordance with a joint resolution of Congress passed May 11, 1950, is also a day dedicated as a call to prayer for permanent peace; and

WHEREAS, toward the goal of peace, Memorial Day is a day for somber reflection on lives lost and potentials left unfulfilled, and for holding fast to our earnest hope for and commitment to non-violent solutions to conflict and a true, lasting peace where all people can thrive; and

WHEREAS, from that first Decoration Day until now, we have made much progress as a nation and people to live up to the ideals for which so many have given the ultimate sacrifice, yet have much more work to do; and

WHEREAS, one way to honor the dead is to treat the living well;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Bell, mayor of the Town of Hillsborough, do hereby proclaim May 25, 2026 as “Memorial Day” in the Town of Hillsborough in honor of all members of the armed forces who have lost their lives in service to their country and I call on community members to recognize and support the loved ones of the fallen, and encourage all residents to reflect on their role in creating a more just, peaceful nation and world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hillsborough to be affixed this 11th day of May in the year 2026.

Mark Bell, Mayor
Town of Hillsborough