



# NAACP

Pennsylvania  
STATE CONFERENCE



Kenneth L. Huston  
President

## PRESS RELEASE

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### ALWAYS REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

Memorial Day honors those who served our country in the United States Armed Forces in the various wars and yet never made it back home alive. We remember both the men and women who sacrificed their lives for our country. Although celebration of this day is very different this year with the COVID-19 pandemic still at hand, there are those who take time to visit the cemeteries without the celebratory parades and services, They have gone and placed a flag in acknowledgment of the sacrificial service these veterans made so that other generations could live.

There is a story where Boalsburg, Pennsylvania claims to have had its origins in the founding of Memorial Day back in 1864 and offers some of their traditional celebrations. Across the country, but particularly in the south, African Americans have taken the time to visit the historically Black cemeteries, (that are not always properly maintained) and spend time cleaning them up and then placing flags on the graves of those veterans having served our country. Most of us have had veterans within our families or at the very least have known a veteran who served the United States of America with dignity and honor.

Memorial Day is also recognized as the unofficial start of summer. Having experienced the COVID-19 for more than two months with the mandate to stay indoors and practice social distancing while wearing masks whenever there is a need to be out and about for the protection of humanity and mitigating the spread of the disease has been overwhelming for some. And yet, the sacrifices of veterans who either lost their lives serving this country throughout the various wars, or those who returned home with their lives forever changed because of their service to protect their country cannot be forgotten. Until it is ultimately eradicated, let's not minimize the threat of the pandemic which still lingers impacting lives and the quality of life. Instead, take this opportunity to remember our veterans by calling out their names and telling their stories. We salute you!!!

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Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization with a mission to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. The Pennsylvania State Conference was established in 1934 and pursues the same mission throughout the Commonwealth.