

# *The* Lake Heritage **breeze**



June 2022  
Issue 6



## MEMORIAL DAY *EXTRA*



Lake Heritage Memorial Day Ceremonies

*REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED*



Pictured here are Matt and Ila Verdirame and Grace and Jackson Keller, these volunteers went around placing flags around the community in honor of Memorial Day Weekend



# Memorial Day Observance Event 2022

Article and Photos by Dawn Levickas

Lake Heritage residents with their families, friends, and extended community, gave honor to our country's fallen heroes and those who have recently passed on at the annual Memorial Day Observance Event held on Sunday, May 29, at Shady Grove. Attendees who had or currently serve in the various branches of our country's military service were also honored.







**Keynote Speaker, LTC(P)  
Peter Gray**



**Rev. Richard Ginnever**

**Retired Colonel Bill Chantelau officiated the program. LH President Keith Ballantyne gave a personal message related to his life experience. Keynote Speaker, LTC(P) Peter Gray, who has special ties to Lake Heritage, delivered a very meaningful address. Invocation was given by Rev. Richard Ginnever, a LH Board Member. Marie Chantelau read “Just a Common Soldier” and rang the bell in remembrance of service individuals who have been lost since last year. Retired Sergeant First Class Steve Oakes spoke about LH Veterans Support Program called *The Boot*. Taps was played by Retired Sergeant First Class Mitch Mummert. Posting of the Colors was provided by Gettysburg High School JROTC Color Guard.**



**Marie Chantelau**



**The Boot**



## Lake Heritage's President's Memorial Day Commemorative Event Message 2022

By LHPOA President Keith Ballantyne

Let me start by saying thank you for this opportunity to speak, and to welcome you to today's ceremony. We couldn't have asked for better weather. And though this day is joyously associated with the beginning of the summer season, Memorial Day is also a time to respect and honor those service members who gave so much. It is a time for reflection and thanks to the 1.2 million Americans that paid the ultimate price for this idea we call

America, and the ideals for which

it stands. It's also a time to remember our veterans who have passed on, their service not forgotten. For me, each Memorial Day surfaces some old memories. I remember as a child, when my brother learned that several of his close friends from Paris Island had lost their lives in the Beirut bombing. I remember the day in 2014 I learned that General Greene was killed in Afghanistan, a general officer with whom we were speaking the week before to address missing reconnaissance capabilities for the US Army. His death shocked us all. I also remember the passing of a shipmate in 2015, Master Chief Kyle Sutton, who's skill and influence helped shape me as a sailor, and I remember Air Force Staff Sargent Jason Semler, a friend and employee of mine, that tragically took his own life in that same year. They are gone, but never forgotten. For me, this day draws me back to September 11 th , 2001. Like many, I remember precisely what I was doing. I remember that same day, 3 years later, having long

since completed boot camp and being mustered on the bow of FFG-60. My captain, the unfortunately named Commander Flood, was addressing us. He mentioned the importance of our mission, and of the fickle nature of the press. He also asked us to remember the amount of sacrifice the nation has endured to preserve liberty, and reassured us to stay the course. He

then reiterated the story of our ship's namesake, USMC SGT Rodney Maxwell Davis, a Medal of Honor recipient who, as his men were being overrun by the North Vietnamese, selflessly covered a grenade with his body to save them. Commander Flood's message was eloquent and clear, we owe a debt to those who have sacrificed so much that we may remain free. Honor them and carry on the tradition. So on this day I remember SGT Davis, and the shipmates we have lost. I have had the honor of visiting several American Cemeteries both here and abroad. Whether locally, or further south at Arlington, or Honolulu, or at the American Cemetery in the Netherlands, or in Cambridge England, they all produce a similar sense of solemn respect and gratitude for the sacrifice. It is impossible to stand in any of them and not feel it, nor to leave unimpacted by the sheer scale. These servicemembers do not have large monuments or big plaques detailing their heroism. Instead, they have simple markers that are well kept and orderly. In fact, they may not have ever made the news or defied all odds in an epic battle, but they are just as important. Their commitment to our country and their willingness to put it above all else, above even their own life, speaks volumes to their courage and honor. They were friends, they were mentors, fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters. They are Americans who fought and died for us. Remember them. Remember their names, their actions, their importance to us all. But also, don't

forget to celebrate them. While Memorial Day reminds us to think about our fallen, it's also cause to appreciate what their sacrifice has given us. A time to fly our flag. A time to get together with family, ice down some beer, and grill a burger. A time to enjoy the things worth preserving. Spend these perfect days with friends and loved ones, and enjoy them. I am sure they would have wanted

it that way. I leave you with a quote from Ronald Reagan that I also ended my recent newsletter article with. "...And if words cannot repay the debt we owe these men, surely with our actions we must strive to keep faith with them and with the vision that led them to battle and to final sacrifice."

Thank you.



**The program included a three-fire cannon gun salute by 1st Maryland Artillery/Rigby's Battery Civil War reenacting soldiers since the 1990's.**

**The 6-8 member unit follow strict and standard artillery procedures of the US Field Artillery Association and use a 1852 reproduction model 12 Pound Howitzer and limber. Lake Heritage property resides on land that was occupied by and fought over by Civil War armies during the 1863 battle. May we who live on this land today never take freedom for granted. May we always remember too, the ultimate sacrifices our forefathers paid for our homeland and around the world.**







**World War II Veteran and former Lake Heritage resident, Clem Leone, was in attendance. Below, he appears with Ernie Clevinger, Chairman of the Memorial Day Commemorative Event.**







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