Memorial Day 25 MAY 2020
2PM, Monday, Montana Veterans Memorial, Great Falls, MT
(As per CCHD guidance, the ceremony is limited to participants only and will be broadcast live to a ‘virtual audience’ thru Facebook, local radio and recorded to the memorial’s website for viewing immediately afterwards)

Welcome……………..Dwayne Nelson, Chairman, MT Veterans Memorial Assoc. (MVMA)

Master of Ceremonies………………………..Richard Liebert, Lt. Col (Ret.), U.S. Army

Presentation of the Colors…………………………..Malmstrom AFB Honor Guard

Invocation…………………………………………Chaplain Heather Bodwell, Lt. Col, USAF

National Anthem……………………………………. Sarah Keller, Great Falls Symphony

Pledge of Allegiance…………………………………………..Scout Troop 1110 trio

Keynote Speaker………………………………Ken Robison, Captain, Retired, U.S. Navy

‘Bagpipe Salute’………………………………………………………………..Jesse Callender

Gold Star Marker dedication ….Kathy Austin, MT Blue & Gold Star Families Memorial Markers Chairwoman

Boots, Rifle and Helmet Remembrance………………. Marine Corps League, Det 688

Taps……………………………………………………………………..Hailey Finch, CMR High School

The Montana Veterans Memorial Association established and maintains this memorial to honor and recognize all veterans. A Veteran is defined as any man or woman of any age who has served in any branch of the military of the United States of America in any capacity, and to honor men and women living and deceased equally. Memorial tiles are available for $250 and contact the MVMA with your request at:

Montana Veterans Memorial Association, PO Box 3524, Great Falls, Montana 59403-3524  (406)454-9070, www.montanaveteransmemorial.org, Non-Profit Tax ID #0530543
Ken Robison loves books, and he loves history and historic preservation. He is a chronicler of neglected Western history and active in historical and preservation groups in Fort Benton, Sun River and Great Falls. He was born and educated in Montana, and after graduating from Great Falls High School and the University of Montana, Captain Ken Robison served thirty years in Naval Intelligence through many contingency operations. During Operation Homecoming, Captain Robison escorted and debriefed senior Navy Vietnam POW James Bond Stockdale. Ken is author or co-author of twelve books including *Montanans in the Great War: Open Warfare Over There*, the second and final of his books on Montanans in World War I.

During WWII the name Gold Star came from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner, called a Service Flag, in the window of their homes. This banner told others that a family member was serving in the Armed Forces. The Service Flag had a star for each family member in the United States Armed Forces. Living servicemen were represented by a Blue Star, which stands for hope and pride. When service members lost their lives, the blue star was replaced with a gold one, representing the sacrifice. A silver star stood for a service member wounded overseas.

Captain Robert B. Quiesser, an Ohio National Guard veteran of the Mexican Border, (1916) is credited with designing the original flag. In 1917 the Congressional Record stated: "The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother--their children.

A Blue Star Marker was created in 1947 to honor WWII veterans, but now includes all men and women who had served, are serving or will serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. Our Blue Star Memorial Marker, adorned by two benches installed by Rainbow Garden Club and Flower Growers Club, lies east of the memorial here.

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was incorporated in 1929, obtaining a federal charter from the U.S. Congress. It began with 25 mothers living in the Washington DC area. On June 23, 1936, a joint Congressional resolution designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mothers’ Day, a holiday that has been observed each year by a presidential proclamation.

These Blue and Gold Star traditions are still honored today for our Nation’s warriors.
Montana’s Fallen Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan

Army PFC Kristofer Stonesifer, Missoula
1st Lt. Edward Saltz, Big Fork
Army PFC Owen D. Witt, Sand Springs
Marine Cpl. Dean Pratt, Stevensville
Marine Lance Cpl. Kane Funke, Kalispell
Army Staff Sgt. Aaron Holleyman, Glasgow
Marine Cpl. Raleigh C. Smith, Troy
Mt. Army NG Sgt. 1st Class Robbie McNary, Lewistown
Marine Lance Corporal Nicholas Bloem, Belgrade
Army 1st Lt. Josh Hyland, Missoula
Army Sgt. Travis Arndt, Great Falls
Marine PFC Andrew Bedard, Missoula
Army Cpt. Michael MacKinnon, Helena
Marine Cpl. Phillip Baucus, Wolf Creek
Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy Sandvick Monroe, Chinook
Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Charles Komppa, Absarokee
Army PFC Shawn Murphy, Butte
Marine Lance Cpl. Nicklas Palmer, Great Falls
Army Spc. Scott Dykman, Harrison
Army Spc. James Riekena, Missoula
Army PFC Matthew Zeimer, Glendive
Army Staff Sgt. Shane Becker, Helena
Army PFC Kyle Bohrnsen, Phillipsburg
Army Spc. Michael Frank, Great Falls
Army SSG Travis Atkins, Bozeman
Army Spc. Donald Young, Helena
Army Staff Sgt. Yance Gray, Ismay
Army Cpt. Andrew Pearson, Billings
Army Sgt. James a. McHale, Fairfield
Marine Sgt. Trevor Johnon, Forsyth
Army Lt. Col. Garnet R. Derby, Missoula
Army Staff Sgt. Terry Lynch, Sheperd
Marine Corporal Nicholas Uzenski, Bozeman
Army Sgt. Jeremiah Whittman, Darby
Army Sgt. Nicholas S. Cook, Hungry Horse
Army Spc. Jonathan A. Pilgeram, Eden
Army PFC Daren A. Smith, Helena
Army PVT Timothy J. Hutton, Dillon
Army Spc. Antonio Burnside (Many Hides), Browning
Navy, Tech Airman, Andrew Scott Charpentier, Great Falls
Army Staff Sgt Thaddeus S. Montgomery, West Yellowstone
Army PFC Michael A. Rogers, White Sulphur Springs
Marine Cpl. Stewart S. Trejo, Whitefish

Montana ties:

Marine Lance Cpl. Nathan Wood
Army SSG Patrick L. Lybert
Army Sgt. Lucas T. White
Army Sgt Michael Sturdivant
Army Sgt. John K. Daggett
Army Sgt. Shane Barnard