



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FROM THE OFFICE OF MAYOR MICHAEL P. BYRNE**

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**PARMA HEIGHTS CITY HALL  
6281 PEARL ROAD  
PARMA HEIGHTS, OH 44130  
(440) 884-9600 x15**

May 7, 2012

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

### **PARMA HEIGHTS MEMORIAL DAY TRADITION TO CONTINUE**

***Parma Heights*** - The Parma Heights Memorial Day ceremony, thought to be the oldest continuous service in the state, will take place on the front lawn of the Parma-South Presbyterian Church, 6155 Pearl Road, just as it has for the past 144 consecutive years.

The service at the church will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, May 28, and be followed by a parade up Pearl Road to the cemetery. A memorial service is scheduled to begin at about 10:45 a.m. with the arrival of the parade participants.

Parma Heights Mayor Michael P. Byrne urges residents to focus on the fact that Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. "The continuation of these two ceremonies is the heart of the Memorial Day observance in the City of Parma Heights," the Mayor explained.

To emphasize his point, Mayor Byrne referred to the diary notes of Winifred P. Stroud, great-granddaughter of one of the founding fathers of Parma Heights, Amos Hodgman, dating from 1907, which reads: "Memorial Day was originally intended as a day of mourning for those who suffered in the war and to bring to our minds what a terrible sacrifice had been made to free our country from the sin of slavery and preserve the Union.....Instead of a serious observance it is fast becoming a day for sports, amusements, and merrymaking....Let every one of us resolve this very day that we will never be careless of Memorial Day."

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed as a national day of observance on May 5, 1868, by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. After World War I, the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war. The City of Parma Heights has celebrated Memorial Day with the two services since its inception in 1868.

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