



**Wilmot Historical Society  
Tentative Program 30May2020**

Where: Wilmot Veterans Memorial, Village Road, Wilmot, NH

When: May 30, 2020 at 2:00 PM

What: Observance of Memorial Day and Recognition of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Soldiers Monument

Who: American Legion Post 40, Wilmot Historical Society, American Legion Auxiliary, Kearsarge Regional High School Band and Students, Wilmot Garden Club, Wilmot Volunteer Fire Department, Wilmot Community Association, Other interested persons and organizations.

Why: Memorial Day is celebrated on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> this year. The first national celebration of the holiday, originally known as Decoration Day took place May 30, 1868, at **Arlington National Cemetery**, where both Confederate and Union soldiers were buried. In 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in **1971**. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

The Veterans of Post 40 provide observances for four towns over the 3-day weekend—Sutton, Springfield, New London and Wilmot with Wilmot being the last on Monday afternoon. This is an exhausting schedule for these veterans, most of whom are senior citizens. When speaking to Commander George West to inquire if Post 40 would participate in the Soldiers Monument recognition, he indicated that combining the two observances would be very helpful and knew of no reason not to. The Wilmot Board of Selectmen found this to be an acceptable arrangement for the Town's observance.

In spite of the fact that the Soldiers Monument has the date 1919 inscribed on it, it was dedicated on May 30, 1920.

Plan: Advertising to include suggestion that attendees bring a lawn chair and insect repellent. The WCA Red Barn has been reserved for that afternoon in case inclement weather makes it impractical to have the entire program outdoors and in any case for refreshments to follow. It is anticipated that the solar powered lights to illuminate the flags will be in place by that time and that Mr. McCarthy can inform the public that "flag etiquette" is now being observed appropriately. Possibly the WFD could assist with seating and ensuring that all safety issues be addressed. It is hoped that a public address system might become available. It is anticipated that other preparations will be made by the Garden Club, the Highway Department and other community members as needed.

**The date for this program is tentative depending upon the current COVID19 emergency. The program may be moved to a later date if necessary, but it will not be canceled.**



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**PROGRAM**

1:30 – 2:00 PM

Assembly and patriotic music by the KRHS band

2:00 PM

Welcome, introductions, invocation, (non-sectarian)

Recognition of active military members and veterans, "Pledge of Allegiance," "Star Spangled Banner" sung by all

Speech by Wilmot High School Student – "The Origin and Meaning of Decoration Day and Memorial Day"

Placement of wreath on monument and dropped into river — Wilmot grade school students including music by Nicole Densmore

American Legion Salute - volley and taps

Music by KRHS Band (Military anthems)

Speech – "The Origin and Story of Wilmot's Soldiers Monument and Veterans Memorial"

Possibly include recognition of family members of original committee

Remarks by significant others as appropriate (possibly before 1<sup>st</sup> speech)

Closing comments with invitation to adjourn to WCA for refreshments

Song by all – "God Bless America"