

Lakeview Area News

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Lakeview's Memorial Day 2026



Local children put American flags at the base of the Tomb of the Unknown Dead



This year's guest speaker was retired Veteran Jessie Prescott

By Linda Huckins

It couldn't have been a better day, weather wise, for this year's Memorial Day ceremony, parade, and tractor show. The sun was shining, temperatures were in the 70s, and the sky was blue with fluffy white clouds. Every Memorial Day, the Hough / Pontius VFW 3701 and its auxiliary hold a ceremony at Lakeview Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Dead to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation and our way of life.

This year's service was well attended with members of the post and auxiliary along with many men, women and children from the community.

Post 3701's Commander Ken Ybabez welcomed everyone saying, "Memorial Day is a sacred reminder of the true cost of

our freedom." He asked us to not forget that every name etched in stone was a life - full of dreams, laughter, and love. Their lives were cut short so we could live in freedom.

He introduced the post's chaplain, Ashley Vansloten, who gave the invocation.

The Lakeview High School band, under the direction of Dan Nanzer, played "America the Beautiful". That was followed by VFW 3701's Auxiliary President Ron Poulk with statistics on the number of veterans buried in Lakeview Cemetery.

"There are nearly 300 veterans laid to rest in this cemetery," Poulk said, "representing every branch of the military and every conflict dating back to the Civil War."

The breakdown is as follows: Civil War - 75

veterans, Spanish American War - 2 veterans, World War I - 34 veterans, World War II - 106 veterans, Korean War - 26 veterans, Vietnam War - 9 veterans, US Army - 95 veterans, US Air Force - 10 veterans, US Marines - 11 veterans, US Navy - 31 veterans, US Coast Guard - 2 veterans, and stones simply marked "veteran" - 41.

Ybabez asked for heads to be uncovered and to render honors for the playing of the National Anthem by the band. Active duty military and veterans saluted while civilians stood at attention with their right hands over their hearts while the anthem was being played.

Next up was Tanner Chapin who did a beautiful job reading The Gettysburg Address. He was followed by the band playing an-

other patriotic song.

This year's guest speaker was retired Army Sergeant First Class and Combat Medic, Veteran Jessie Prescott. Today, he works at Rockford Construction, a company that is committed to hiring and supporting veterans. He is also the lead of RockVets, which is a group within Rockford Construction that ensures a smooth transition for veterans into the workplace.

Here are some highlights from his speech.

He welcomed everyone and thanked veterans for their service and especially thanked families of those we lost. "Thank you," he said, "for carrying a weight most Americans will never fully understand."

He said we need more people, like those attending the ceremony, to remember

that freedom comes with a cost. He added, "We need more gratitude, more pride in our country, more remembering."

He said that the men and women we lost were ordinary Americans who believed there was something bigger than themselves. "That is why patriotism matters. Not because America is perfect, but because it is ours and because millions before us believed it was worth defending."

Prescott talked about how Americans step up when disaster strikes or a tragedy happens. They often run toward danger because they believe that freedom is worth defending. "Freedom was earned...it was paid for...and it must be protected," he said. "Veterans know this."

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The Gus Macker Tournament is next week, June 5-7.

Lakeview Baptist Church has a new pastor. His name is Jeff Hawes. He will begin his ministry Sunday, May 31. Look for an article about Pastor Hawes and his family in the next couple weeks.

What do you consider to be ideal weather? How about sunny and temps in the 70's. See forecast below. Isn't it great to live in Michigan in the summer?

Spring Forecast

Thu Sunny, with a high near 74. Northeast wind 7 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Thu Night Mostly clear, with a low around 48.

Fri Sunny, with a high near 78.

Fri Night Mostly clear, with a low around 50.

Sat Sunny, with a high near 72.

Sat Night Mostly clear, with a low around 47.

Sun Sunny, with a high near 75.

Sun Night Mostly clear, with a low around 51.

Mon Sunny, with a high near 76.



Winners of the VFW Antique Tractor Show



Jared Roberts and son - winners of the Veterans' Choice



This 1938 Allis Chalmers WC was the winning tractor.



Fill Sand \$20.00
Beach Sand \$38.00
50# Play Sand \$2.99



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