

MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



Parkman Paragraphs

Memorial Day 2026

2026 Memorial Day Special Edition Parkman Paragraphs

Created by Cory Anderson - Parkman Paragraphs is published in Spring and Fall of each year. This limited edition issue is printed specifically for the 2026 Memorial Day Parade.

We wish to thank all of our Active Duty and Veterans throughout all eras of our country's existence for all of the sacrifices that they have made to give us our freedoms and continue to make our country a safe place to live. May our future generations understand these sacrifices from our Veterans and appreciate the quality of life created for them.

On behalf of the Parkman Trustees and the Parkman Chamber of Commerce
Special Thanks for the continued support of the:

Geauga County Sheriff Office
American Legion Burton Post 459
Veterans of Foreign Wars Middlefield Post 9678
Parkman & Troy Fire and Rescue Departments
Cardinal Marching Band and Cardinal School Supporters
Parkman Congregational Church & Rev. William Coley
SS Edward Lucy Catholic Parish & Rev. Jacob Bearer
Western Phoenix Masons Lodge #42

and the various participants who helped to make our
2026 Parkman Memorial Day Celebration a success:

Gable Family - (thanks for the photos and info about John Gable)
Gates Family - (thanks for the photos and info about Richard Gates)

Jeff Gardner - Commander - V.F.W. Post 9678
Mike Komandt - Chief, Parkman Fire Department
Frank Sanzo - Cardinal High School Marching Band
Dale Komandt - Parkman Historical Society
Patti Humr - Parkman Cemetery Sexton

Scouts of America Burton Troop #197 and Scout Leaders

Joyce Peters - Parkman Trustee
Lance Portman - Parkman Trustee
Brandon Reed - Parkman Trustee
Denise Villers - Parkman Fiscal Officer

**Best wishes to everyone for a fun and safe summer
and don't forget to give THANKS to a Veteran.**



American Legion - Burton Post 459

<https://www.facebook.com/AL.Post459>
Burton.Middlefield.Post459@proton.me or (440) 834-8621

Veterans Of Foreign Wars - Middlefield Post 9678

Facebook = <https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost9678/middlefieldvfw9678@gmail.com> or (440) 632-1257

Thanks to all who support!



— 1776 — 2026 —

Our new website:
<https://parkman.geauga.oh.gov/>

Newsletter e-mail:
ParkmanOhio@gmail.com



2026 Parkman Honoree John Michael Gable

John Michael Gable
September 16, 1943 - March 22, 2016 (aged 72)
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/160086627/john-michael-gable>

Mr. John M. Gable was born September 16th, 1943 in Cleveland, OH to John G. Gable and Margaret B. (Churma) Gable. He later married Gayle Hicks on April 17th, 1971.

John, a Ohio Army National Guard Veteran, worked mainly as a carpenter.

He loved bowling as well as feeding and taking care of wild birds that visited his back yard. John's main enjoyment though was spending time with his beloved wife, daughters, and grandchildren.

John M. Gable passed away on March 22nd, 2016 at the age of 72 in the David Simpson Hospice House in Cleveland. He is buried in Overlook Cemetery Parkman, Ohio.

Thank you Mr. John Gable for your dedicated service to both country and community.

Ohio National Guard History

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio_National_Guard

Militia

In 1803 every state had a militia, so when Ohio was first formed as a state a militia for the state was created. This Ohio Militia was an important factor in the state's early history. The militia helped to subdue the Native American population in the state and aid in the War of 1812. After this, the militia experienced a decline and lost funding. This became a large problem at the onset of the Civil War seeing as Ohio's militia was extremely underdeveloped and the governor had to ask communities to supply units. Once more the Ohio Militia experienced a decline after the Civil War.

The Dick Act

In 1903 the federal government enacted the Dick Act. The Dick Act is responsible for creating the National Guard. The law was enacted mainly because of the poor condition of state militias and allowed the federal government to nationalize the National Guard and send them overseas or elsewhere in the country to assist with the Active Military

Today, the Ohio National Guard comprises the Ohio Army National Guard and the Ohio Air National Guard. The commander-in-chief of the Ohio Army National Guard is the governor of the U.S. state of Ohio. If the Ohio Army National Guard is called to federal service, then the president of the United States becomes the commander-in-chief.



Parkman Paragraphs is published in the Spring and Fall of each year. This special Memorial Day 2026 edition is sponsored by the Parkman Trustees. Cory Anderson, Paragraphs Editor

Parkman Township Trustees

Meetings normally are 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm in the Parkman Community House

For all Township business, call 440-548-2904

Parkman Mailing Address:
Parkman Township
16295 Main Market Rd. (Rt. 422)
West Farmington, Ohio 44491

Parkman's Facebook

Search "**Parkman Township**" on Facebook

Joyce Peters - JPeters@Parkman.geauga.oh.gov
Lance Portman - L.Portman@Parkman.geauga.oh.gov
Brandon Reed - BReed@Parkman.geauga.oh.gov

Fiscal Officer

Denise Villers - DVillers@Parkman.geauga.oh.gov

Parkman Community House and Parkman Overlook Park Pavilion

Lerissa Mathews - Parkman Hall Coordinator
For info or reservations call 440-904-0540
or e-mail ParkmanCommunityHouse@gmail.com

Check out our Parkman website for the most up to date policies and rental charges
or contact Lerissa to print a current contract.

Fire & Rescue

Mike Komandt - Fire Chief

330-891-9488 or MKomandt@Parkman.geauga.oh.gov
Non Emergency Fire Station 440-548-2515

Parkman Chamber of Commerce

16295 Main Market Rd. (Rt. 422) - Unit A
West Farmington, Ohio 44491
or Email - ParkmanChamber@gmail.com

Denise Villers, President
Sandy Rought, Secretary

Nancy Black, Vice-President
Lynn Schiffbauer, Treasurer

Chamber meets at 7pm on the 3rd Monday of the months
January, February, April, September, October, and November
in the Parkman Community House. We are always looking for new members.

Our biggest annual event is our:

Parkman Pancake Breakfast - serving since 1968

Parkman Community House - Sunday's in March
Pancake and Sausage Meal - "Eat In" and "Drive Through" options available

Many thanks to all who help volunteer and support all of our Parkman traditions!

Zoning Inspector

Mark Strumbly - Zoning Inspector
at 440-321-6167 or Strumbly58@gmail.com

By appointment office hours only.

E-mails must have residents name and contact info to be officially answered.

Zoning Commission

Meets 4th Wednesday at 7pm
January, April, July, and October
at the Community House

Zoning Appeals Board

Meets 2nd Tuesday at 7pm
at the Community House

Road Department

Eric Mathews - Superintendent
ParkmanRoads@gmail.com
Roads Cell Phone - 440-904-0655

Cemetery Sexton

Patti Humr - Sexton
216 -509-3144
ParkmanCemetery@gmail.com

Parkman Webmaster & Editor

Cory Anderson - ParkmanOhio@gmail.com

Fire/Medical Emergencies:

CALL 911



Past Parkman Honorees

- 2001 John R. Ferry, WWII - Army Air Corps
- 2002 Robert F. Barnett, WWII - Army
- 2003 Glenn A. Thompson, WWII - Army Air Corps
- 2004 Richard Stanchak (Stanley), WWII - Army
- 2005 Richard Giles, WWII - Army
- 2006 Richard O. Polari, WWII - Air Force
- 2007 Stanley Smith, WWII - Army
- 2008 Dennis Testa, Vietnam - Marines
- 2009 Gotham Brothers: John, Carlisle "Kelly", Glen, Neil, Leland, WWII - Army
- 2010 Albert Wilson, WWII - Army Air Corps
- 2011 Harold Blackford, WWII - Army
- 2012 Carl B. Wilson, WWII - Navy
- 2013 Carl 'Ed' Wilson, Vietnam - Air Force
- 2014 Bill Snyder, WWII - Army
- 2015 Richard 'Dutch' Komandt, WWII - Army
- 2016 Wayne Komandt, Vietnam - Army
- 2017 Steve G. Soltis, Korean - Army
- 2018 Leonard Hickox, Korean - Army
- 2019 Oliver 'Big O' Graves Jr., Korean / Vietnam - Army
- 2020 Jeannette Elizabeth Smith Loomis, WWII - Army
- 2021 Ralph C Butt, WWII - Army
- 2022 Forrest Rollin Bidlack, WWII - Navy
- 2022 Elwood (Elly) Leonard Evans, WWII - Army
- 2022 Glenwood Harold Ferry, WWII - Army
- 2022 John E. Larmi, WWII - Army
- 2022 Herbert Bruce Olmstead, WWII - Marines
- 2022 James (Joe) Soltis, Korean - Army
- 2023 Frank Benyo, WWII - Army
- 2023 Joseph Klima, WWII - Army
- 2024 Kenneth J. Baptie, WWII - Navy
- 2024 Kaarlo Pollari, Korean - Army
- 2024 Donald E. Villers, Korean - Navy Reserves
- 2025 Richard Thorn, Vietnam - Navy
- 2025 Joseph Wells, Korean - Air Force

You can find all of their profiles on our Parkman Website Honor Roll.

2026 Parkman Honoree Richard Gates



Richard A. Gates
January 13, 1937 ~ November 16, 2021 (age 84)
<https://www.slyffh.com/obituary/Richard-Gates>

Richard A. Gates was born January 13, 1937, in Troy Township to Vernon and Bertha Gates. He attended Troy school and then Middlefield High School. Richard graduated in 1955.

He joined the Army Reserve serving for six years. After his military service, he joined his father in the family construction business known as Gates Construction. When his dad retired, Richard took over the business. Later his son Ronald Gates joined as a partner.

Richard was an avid fisherman and went to Canada every year to fish with his friends, and 3 sons, and later with his 3 grandsons. He also loved snowmobiling and 4 wheeling. He shared many vacations (especially cruises) with his wife Beverly.

Richard A. Gates passed away at home in Parkman on November 16, 2021 at the age 84, surrounded by his beloved family. He is buried in Overlook Cemetery Parkman, Ohio.

Thank you Mr. Richard Gates for your dedicated service to both country and community.

US Army Reserves History

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Reserve

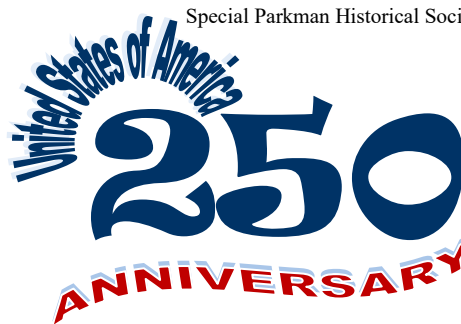
The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is a reserve force of the United States Army. Together, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard constitute the Army element of the reserve components of the United States Armed Forces.

On 23 April 1908, Congress created the Medical Reserve Corps, the official predecessor of the Army Reserve. After World War I, under the National Defense Act of 1920, Congress reorganized the U.S. land forces by authorizing a Regular Army, a National Guard and an Organized Reserve (Officers Reserve Corps and Enlisted Reserve Corps) of unrestricted size, which later became the Army Reserve. This organization provided a peacetime pool of trained Reserve officers and enlisted men for use in war.



Check the new Parkman Website for all of the Memorial Day Honoree stories!

Special Parkman Historical Society Edition of Veteran Seth Phelps Jr





Parkman Veterans who served during the Revolutionary War (1775–1783)



Joel Cross Revolutionary War Veteran
Birth 1748 Orford, New Hampshire, USA
Death Feb 1848 (aged 99–100) Ohio, USA
Burial Old Cemetery Parkman, Ohio, USA
Plot S1 L013

Inscription
Joel Cross
Cpl. NY Militia
Rev. War
1748-1848

Inscription
Seth Phelps
Captain Conn. Regt
Rev. War
March 1826

CPT Seth Phelps Revolutionary War Veteran
Birth 17 Nov 1746 East Windsor, Connecticut, USA
Death Mar 1826 (aged 79) Parkman, Ohio, USA
Burial Old Cemetery Parkman, Ohio, USA
Plot S1 L099



Private in
Capt Parsons' 10th Company,
Col Hinman's Connecticut
Regiment

Reuben Curtiss Revolutionary War Veteran
Birth 1754
Death 23 Apr 1839 (aged 84–85)
Burial Old Cemetery Parkman, Ohio, USA
Plot S1 L056



Seth Phelps was born in East Windsor, Connecticut in 1746; a graduate of Yale College in 1760. He was a Judge as well as a Captain. He enlisted to serve in the Revolutionary War on 1 January 1776 and was made Captain in General Wayne's Select Brigade. Wounded in his arm and disabled, he was dispatched to the Continental Corps of Invalids and was honorably retired on 9 October 1782.

Although an invalid for the rest of his life, he was Representative to the Connecticut Legislature and its Senator for two years. He was Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Cayuga County from 1807 until 1809. He was also an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati.



Samuel Donaldson Revolutionary War Veteran
Birth unknown
Death 1883
Burial Old Cemetery Parkman, Ohio, USA
Plot S2 L224

Inscription
Pvt; Peck's Conn. Troops;
Rev. War
{died before May 1833}

SGT William French Revolutionary War Veteran
Birth 25 Jan 1744 Westerly, Rhode Island, USA
Death 15 Aug 1838 (aged 94) Farmington Township, Ohio, USA
Burial Parkman-Bundsborg Gate Cemetery Parkman, Ohio, USA



Inscription: "Sgt. Mass. Troops Rev. War, d. 15 Aug. 1838"

Inscription
U.S. Mass. Art'y.
Rev. War

Asa Doty Revolutionary War Veteran
Birth 9 Sep 1765
Death 12 Jan 1843 (aged 77) Parkman, Ohio, USA
Burial Old Cemetery Parkman, Ohio, USA
Plot S1 L041



Pvt Elisha Bundy Revolutionary War Veteran
Birth 6 Oct 1760
Death 5 Oct 1826 (aged 65) Parkman, Ohio, USA
Burial Parkman-Bundsborg Gate Cemetery Parkman, Ohio, USA
Plot Row 4

Inscription: Pvt. Woods Mass. Mil, Rev War



Zechariah Hosmer Revolutionary War Veteran
Birth 29 Aug 1762 East Haddam, Connecticut, USA
Death 6 Aug 1856 (aged 93) Parkman, Ohio, USA
Burial Old Cemetery Parkman, Ohio, USA
Plot S1 L041

Zechariah Hosmer served in the Navy during the Revolutionary War and was in many battles.

Inscription
Ensign;
Beldings Regt;
Conn. Mil.
Rev. War

Benjamin Smith Revolutionary War Veteran
Birth 25 Mar 1738 Hebron, Connecticut, USA
Death Mar 1831 (aged 92–93) Parkman, Ohio, USA
Burial Old Cemetery Parkman, Ohio, USA
Plot S1 L042

