

YOU are Invited to Attend

the re-Dedication of Liberty Cemetery for Veterans on West Belmont Avenue, in Fresno, California, services to take place on the Centennial of its founding, at

Wednesday May 30, 2018, 6 p.m.

Program:

1) **Welcome by Bill Fenton of the Friends of Liberty Cemetery**

Bill: "Welcome to this very special Commemoration of Memorial Day. I begin by thanking each of you on behalf of the Friends of Liberty Cemetery for attending this event being held on the traditional Memorial Day because today is the 150th anniversary of the First official nation-wide Memorial Day, the 100th anniversary of the founding of Liberty Cemetery as a final resting place for the veterans who served in our nation's armed forces and their spouses, the 100th anniversary of the last year of the First World War, and the day on which James Savage chapter 1854 of E Clampus Vitus unveils to the public a granite monument commemorating the 100th anniversary of this cemetery. And in a sense we are re-dedicating this hallowed ground to the memory of all men and women who have served our nation in time of war and of peace, so it is appropriate that we borrow heavily from the program of dedication on Memorial Day of 1918. Most of what you hear today are the speeches delivered and the songs that were sung exactly 100 years ago as reported in Fresno's newspapers. Those that weren't are those delivered in 1917, 1919, 1920, or 1921, or written on the modeled of the speeches of the time by Dr. David Davenport. So let us begin by calling to the podium Col. Steve Eddy, a Chaplain with the United States for over twenty years, who

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currently serves as Chaplain for Hinds Hospice. Col. Eddy will read an invocation originally given by Father Martin Keating on the occasion of the burial of Sgt. Alfred Anderson of Fresno who was killed in battle on October 30, 1918, initially buried in Belgium, and interred in Liberty Cemetery on Memorial Day of 1921.

2) **Invocation by Col. Steve Eddy, US Army, and Chaplain at Hinds Hospice.**

"America, upon thee we invoke the favor of the God of nations whose gracious keeping thou has been from the day of thy birth to the present moment. O God! We pray Thee, bless and guide our country.

"Our fathers' God; from out of whose hand
the centuries fall like grains of sand.
We meet today united, free,
and loyal to our land and Thee;
And thank Thee for the era done
And trust Thee for the opening one;
Oh, make thou us, through centuries long,
In peace secure, in justice strong.
Around our gifts of freedom draw
The safeguards of Thy righteous law,
And cast in some diviner mold
Let the new cycle blame the old

" America, may thy sons and daughters cherish the memory of those who died that we might live.

"They passed away, but cannot pass from our memory,
For America feels them in her blood,
She was their Mother, she is now their daughter.
The Great Republic of the West
And from their loins
America draws upon the greatness which they gave,
May they rest now with God.

Amen.

Bill:

"Thank you Col. Eddy for sharing with us Fr. Keating;'s invocation for 1921."

"Having invoked the the blessing of Almighty God upon us, let us now pay homage to the flag that symbolizes the liberty those assembled here, both living and dead, enjoy as a result of our fallen heroes. And I ask that we note that two American flags will be brought forward, one is our current 50 start flag, the other is the 36 start flag under which the men buried here who fought in the Civil War served in 1865. These two flags mark the range of years of service of the deceased heroes buried here.

"I therefore call upon the Cadet Corps of Design Science High School to present the colors.

3) Presentation and posting of the Colors by the Cadet Corps of Design Science High School, Fresno.

Bill:

Without further adieu I call upon Cadet Captain Ryan J. Yang of Fresno Composite Squadron 112 of the Civil Air Patrol, United States Air Force Auxiliary, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Pledge of allegiance led by Cadet Captain Ryan J. Yang, Civil Air Patrol, U. S. Air Force Auxiliary, Fresno Composite Squadron 112.

Yang:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

Bill:

"Thank you Cadet Captain Yang. I am now pleased to introduce Miss Rebekah Castañon, a graduate of Edison High School in 2013, who will

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perform for us the first stanza of The Star-Spangled Banner.

5) **Music: "The Star-Spangled Banner" performed by Rebekah Castañon, Edison High School class of 2013.**

Bill:

"Thank you Becka. One hundred and fifty-five years ago on the outskirts of what had been an insignificant village called Gettysburg in the State of Pennsylvania amidst thousands of graves of recently fallen union soldiers who had sacrificed themselves in the largest battle ever fought on American soil, President Abraham Lincoln, addressed a crowd very much like this one to honor these heroes of the Union. As such it is with great pleasure that I call to the podium Major Wayne Scott, US Army, who has for the better part of twenty years portrayed Abraham Lincoln not just in California, but even at Lincoln's Home in Springfield, Illinois. His resemblance to Lincoln is obvious. Less obvious is the reason. He is a direct descendant of a sister of Lincoln's mother. Mr. President, I invite you to recite your famous Gettysburg Address.

6) **Gettysburg Address by President Lincoln as portrayed by Major Wayne Scott, U. S. Army.**

Four score and seven years ago our forefathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great Civil War testing whether that nation, or any other nation so conceived and dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The

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world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honor dead we take increase devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Bill:

"Thank you Mr. President. Among the many men from Illinois who served in the Union army was John Alexander Logan. He was best known as a Division commander in the Vicksburg campaign and commander of the Army's XV corps during Sherman's Carolina campaign of 1865. In 1868, while serving in the House of Representatives, and Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization devoted to the welfare of Union Veterans Logan issued General order no. 11 establishing May 30 as the proper day to decorate the graves of veterans. He was the Republican nominee for the office of vice-President of the United States on the 1884 ticket led by James G. Blaine. He died in 1886, at the age of 60, while serving a second term in the US Senate from Illinois.

"Today, Ron Vaughan, a member of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table, will read General Logan's Order. Ron is wearing the uniform of a Union Officer during the Civil War.

7) Reading by Ron Vaughan, SJVCWRT, of Major General John A. Logan's Order No. 11 establishing May 30, 1868, as the First nation-wide observance of Memorial Day.

"I. The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies

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now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

"We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose, among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than by cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foe? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their death a tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the Nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of free and undivided republic.

"If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain in us.

"Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the Nation's gratitude, -- the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

"II. It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades.

He earnestly desires the public press to call attention to this Order, and lend its friendly aid in bringing it to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

"III . Department commanders will use every effort to make this order effective

Bill:

"Thank you Ron for your reading of Logan's Order establishing May 30 as a nation-wide Memorial Day.

" In 1885 Union Veterans living in the City of Fresno formed a "Post" or lodge of the Grand Army of the Republic. It existed, at least on paper until 1940, when its last member Dennis Micarty died at his daughter's home in San Mateo. In the 55 years in which it existed it had nearly one thousand different members, but in any given year it seldom had even one hundred. In 1919 James E. Burns served as Commander of this Post. He had served during the Civil War twice, first as a Private in Company "A: of the 39th Indiana Infantry, and then as a Hospital Steward for the 8th Indiana Cavalry. he died at Fresno on December 7, 1931, and is buried in the Southeast corner of Liberty Cemetery on the west side of the road beside his wife Sarah. They rest among approximately 75 Union veterans and their spouses, fifteen of whom have new headstones made of granite as a result of applications made to the Veteran's Administration by Dr. Davenport who researched their lives and proved to the satisfaction of the VA that these veterans have no living descendants.

This evening I am pleased to introduce to you Tatiana Zendejas, a Cadet in the Army Junior ROTC program at Fresno High School. She will be reading the speech delivered by Commander James Burns on Memorial Day of 1919.

8) Reading by Cadet Tatiana Zendejas, Army Junior ROTC, Fresno High School, of the speech given by James E Burns, commander of Post 92 of the Grand Army of the Republic, at the 1919 Memorial Day services.

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"This is the national day of memorial, the time when in mind and thought our glorious past is made to live again, and the noble men who molded and shaped its destiny, though dead, are to memory once more infused with life and being. It is the hour when a nation awakes to the remembrance of deeds of heroism performed in its defense; the day when a loyal people, grateful for service rendered their country unite to honor their patriotic dead, to enrich and ennoble their own lives by recalling a public valor and a private worth that are immortal, and to encourage, by their solemn services, a more zealous and abiding patriotism in the head and life of every American citizen. "Differences of party, creed and sect are today forgotten while North and South, East and West all over our broad land, our people with reverent hearts circle the sacred mound where sleep our country's dead. The cares of business, the pursuits of pleasure, the usual and common concerns of secular life are put aside, while we bring flowers and wreaths of evergreen with which to decorate the graves of the men who have sacrificed on the altar of patriotic devotion everything that men hold dear, in order to preserve the integrity and unity and to perpetuate the power and glory of our American republic.

"But on this Memorial Day let us not forget that many eyes are clouded with tears, that many hearts are heavy with regret, that many lives are desolate because of the father or brother, the husband or lover, who did not come back, and that many graves are the shrines of a sorrow whose influence is still potent though time has mercifully robbed us of its first keen anguish. Therefore, with our regard for the dead, let us mingle a tender sympathy for the living who mourn for the loved ones they have lost. And now, comrades, as in this silent campaign ground of our nation's dead, with soldierly reverence and love we garland their passionless mourns, let us recall to memory the men, who in the time of danger made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes.

"Let us recall their toils on the long and weary marches, their intense

suffering in the hospitals, their fearful sacrifices in prisons pens, their sublime heroism in the days of battle, and their supreme fidelity to home and county and native land at all times and under all circumstances, that we who remain many see that the flag under which they fought, and from the shadow of whose folds they were promoted to fame's eternal camping ground, may never be dishonored; that the county whose union and supremacy they surrendered that most precious of all earthly things - life - may have the fervent and enthusiastic devotion of every citizen and that as today we stand at every grave as before an altar, we may pledge our every fiber that so help us God, the memory of our country's dead shall strengthen and encourage in us all a deeper and more abiding patriotism." "

Bill:

"Thank you Tatian for that recitation. It is now time to recall the music of the Civil War by singing the first verse of the most inspirational song of the War, the Battle Hymn of the Republic. The words are printed in your program. Before we begin, let's take a moment to re-hydrate on this warm evening. [Take drink of water] Let the music begin."

9) **Music: "Battle Hymn of the Republic" performed by the audience**

"Mine eyes have seen the coming of the Lord;

"he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;

"he hath loosed the fateful lightning of his Terrible swift sword;

"His truth is marching on.

"Glory, glory, hallelujah!

"Glory, glory, hallelujah!

"His soul is marching on.

Bill:

"Next on our program is an Oration given at Dresden, New York, by

James Ingersoll, one of the county's foremost late 19th century speakers. It was read by Mrs McLellan at the Memorial Day service held here at Liberty Cemetery in 1919. She was the wife of Joseph E. McClellan who had served in the 10th Ohio Infantry during the Civil War. Ingersoll's address, delivered on Memorial Day of 1882, has been edited for length and content and will be delivered by two cadets of the Fresno Composite Squadron 112, U. S. Air Force Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol. We will first hear from Julia Kisbye.

10a) Reading by Cadet Julia Kisbye, Civil Air Patrol, U. S. Air Force Auxiliary, Fresno Composite Squadron 112, of part 1 of James Ingersoll's Oration in 1882 on Memorial Day at Dresden, New York.

"THIS day is sacred to our departed heroes.

This is a day to recall their service and to mourn their passing.

This is the day to show our gratitude by honoring them.

Gratitude is the fairest flower that sheds its perfume in the heart.

To-day we recount the lofty deeds of vanished years -- the toil and suffering, the defeats and victories of heroes who made our Nation great and free.

To-day we remember those who proclaimed liberty and after eight years of strife rejected the King and founded a nation based on a Constitution that has withstood the test of time because the government derives its just power from the consent of the governed, whether it be 2 million people in 1787 or 300 million as it is in 2018.

To-day we remember the heroes of a second war with England, in which we fought for the freedom of the seas -- for the rights of the American sailor. We remember with pride the splendid victories at sea and of one battle in particular that inspired the writing of our national anthem, the Star-Spangled Banner. Peace came at last, crowned with the victory of New Orleans -- a

victory that "did redeem all sorrows" and all defeats.

To-day we remember those who fought their way to the Halls of Montezuma and gained a Pacific Coast for the United States, despite suffering more casualties as a percentage of combatants than in any other conflict.

To-day we remember the enormous sacrifice of men and women who gave this nation a new birth of freedom, one that Preserved the Union, demonstrated the folly of secession, and ended slavery. Fifty men who fought for the Union are at rest here in Liberty Cemetery, their graves marked, so that their names might not be forgotten, and some suffering at the time of the passing thirty years after the Civil War from disabilities and ailments received in that great war.

Elsewhere, as history tells us, great armies have desolated the earth. Those soldiers have been duped by ambitious men. They have waged war for the sake of place and pillage, pomp and power, -- for the ignorant applause of vulgar millions, -- for the flattery of parasites, and the adulation of sycophants and slaves.

Let us proudly remember that the American military, the noblest armed forces in the world, has fought, not to enslave, but to free; not to destroy, but to save; not for conquest, but for conscience not only for us, but for every land and every race.

And so it continues. Whenever, and wherever, our nation has seen injustice or tyranny American men and women have donned the uniform and responded to the call to arms to preserve the peace or to win the peace. And millions have answered the nation's call.

Bill:

"Thank you Julia. The second part of Ingersoll's Oration will be read by Cadet Jordan Shepard.

10b) Reading by Cadet Jordan Shepard, CAP/USAF Auxiliary, Fresno Composite Squadron 112 of part 2 of James Ingersoll's Oration in 1882 on Memorial Day at Dresden, New York,.

"This day is sacred to our departed heroes.

This is a day to recall their service and to mourn their passing.

This is the day to show our gratitude by honoring them.

The flag for which the heroes fought, for which they died, is the symbol of all we are, of all we hope to be.

It is the emblem of equal rights.

It means free hands, free lips, self-government and the sovereignty of the individual.

It means that this continent has been dedicated to freedom.

It means universal education, - light for every mind, knowledge for every child.

It means that the schoolhouse is the fortress of Liberty.

It means that it is the duty of every citizen to bear his share of the public burden, -- to take part in the affairs of his town, his county, his State and his country.

It means that the ballot-box is the source of authority and must not be poisoned.

It means that there shall be a legal remedy for every wrong.

Our flag is the emblem of a supreme will -- of a Nation's power. Beneath its folds the weakest must be protected and the strongest must obey. It shields and canopies alike the loftiest mansion and the rudest hut. That flag was given to the air in the Revolution's darkest days. It represents the sufferings of the past, and the glories yet to be.

This day is sacred to the great heroic host who kept this flag above our heads, -- sacred to the living and the dead -- sacred to the scarred and maimed, -- sacred to the wives who gave their husbands, to the mothers who gave their sons and in present day their daughters.

But what of those who fell? There is no language to express the debt we owe, the love we bear, to all the dead who died for us. Words are but barren sounds. We can but stand beside their graves and in the hush and silence feel what speech has never told.

Bill:

"Thank you Jordan. While we contemplate Julia and Jordan's words, let us again take a drink before singing "American the Beautiful," the song that some people believe captures as no other does the magnificence of our nation's geography. The words to the first stanza are printed in your program.

11) **Music: "America the Beautiful" performed by the audience**

"Oh, beautiful, for spacious skies

"For amber waves of grain

"For purple mountains majesty

"Above the fruited plain

"America, America, God shed thy grace on thee,

"Crown they good with brotherhood,

"from sea to shining sea

Bill:

Next I'd would like to introduce Susan Pappas, a retired educator with the Fresno Unified School District and currently a volunteer with the Fresno Historical Society and a member of the Friends of Liberty Cemetery. She has a few words to share with us about her great-grandfather, Thomas Cosgrove,

who served in the Army in the Philippines during the War with Spain. It is likely that he was personally acquainted with a number of Spanish War veterans buried here at Liberty Cemetery just west of the graves of the Civil War veterans. In fact, they have the same style of headstone, usually a white marble tablet, and were it not for the fact that these stones are inscribed with the letters SpAmWar the kind of information on them would lead one to erroneously conclude that they had served in the Civil War.

"Susan please come forward to the podium

12) **Recitation by Dr Susan Pappas regarding her-g-grandfather Thomas Cosgrove (USWV).**

text not available as of Friday May 25 at 6 pm.

Bill:

"Thank you Susan for educating us about Thomas Cosgrove and sharing with us the letter he wrote to the War Department from his hospital bed on Corregidor in 1899.

"Next of the program is a brief historical sketch concerning the founding of Liberty Cemetery in 1918. It has been prepared by Dr. Davenport and is likely to cover the same matters addressed by William Toomey, Fresno's Mayor in 1918. David would you please take the podium.

13) **Reading by David Davenport of the sketch of the idea for Liberty Cemetery by Mayor William Toomey as compiled from various issues of the *Fresno Republican* from March to May of 1918**

"We are gathered here today May 30, 2018, to rededicate this burying ground on the centennial of its creation. The realization of the Liberty Cemetery plan that was visualized by William Toomey, the Mayor of Fresno in March of 1918 stands out among the patriotic efforts of the people of Fresno. The speed with which his vision was realized is itself remarkable. In

just three months Mayor Toomey formed a committee, secured property, raised funds, and enlisted volunteers to bring to reality his plan to create the first and at the time the only locally owned and operated veteran's cemetery.

Well-known citizens joined with him in promoting the project, one that heartily endorsed by all who heard of it. The first to respond were the Trustees of the Hebrew Benevolent Society who held title to most of what is now Liberty Cemetery. These men donated three acres of land and retained ownership of only the small "Jewish" Cemetery on the east. The Veterans of the Civil War and of the War against Spain, were pleased to have their burying grounds annexed. And the County reportedly provided one and a half acres so that approximately five acres of land is now within the grounds of Liberty Cemetery.

Almost all of this burying ground was undeveloped, even to the extent that it was flat and lacking in vegetation. Johannes Reimers, the San Francisco landscape architect who designed Roeding Park, donated his services and he drew up plans that called for creating a low hill, curving drives for vehicles, foliage, and stone walls along Belmont Avenue on the north and along Franklin Avenue on the south. In April 1918 local contractors used Fresno Scrappers powered by teams of mules to shape the grounds and Mayor Toomey with shovel in hand worked alongside more than fifty men who dug one and a half miles of trenches in which pipe was laid so that water could be delivered to the barren ground. Shrubs were donated by local nurserymen including George Roeding and the grounds were ready for dedication as the final resting place for Fresno area veterans and there would.

Nonetheless, there were more than 50 veterans and their family members already buried here. Most were veterans of the Civil War or the War with Spain, but among them were three who served in what we now call the "First World War." These men were Peter Barsaglini who died February 12; Homer Trower who died March 19, and Neil Manderville who died April 5th. Our next speaker, Erik Vaughan, will have a few words to say about these three, and others laid to rest as the war progressed and thereafter.

Mayor Toomey's efforts on behalf of veterans did not end with the dedication of this cemetery 100 years ago. To ensure that this burying ground was clearly identified her proposed construction of walls and ceremonial gates. In the next five years \$30,000 was raised in the community with school children contributing their pennies and nickles and adults making gifts ranging from \$5 to several hundred. The result was the masonry walls on the north and south, and the elaborate gate on the north over which a wrought iron signage announces to the world the main entrance to Liberty Cemetery. Similar signage over the two entries on the south have yet to be erected nor have the walls planned for the east and west wide. It may be that the funds ran out before these could be accomplished, but this could not be determined with certainty. What can be said is that a monument to the efforts of Mayor Toomey is long overdue, and unless I am mistaken, one will be unveiled later today.

Bill:

Thank you David for providing us with a concise history of Liberty Cemetery for Veterans.

Next, we turn to Erik Vaughan who will speak about the First World War, a suitable topic for today for at least two reasons, first this Cemetery was established in anticipation of the need for a cemetery for men who would not return from Europe under their own power, and secondly 2018 marks the final year of the First World War. Erik would you please come to the podium?"

14) Reading by Erik Vaughan of the significance of the First World War and recognition of the men and women who served. Erik will be costumed as a WWI soldier.

On May 30 of 1918, one hundred years ago today, the United States was at war. Just over a year earlier President Wilson, having grown exasperated at the outrages committed against American vessels in international waters by German submarines, declared to Congress that a state of war existed between the United

States and the German Empire. He believed it was time for the United States to respond with bullets and not just words of protest. Today we commemorate his call to arms and the commitment by the peace-loving Americans to contribute to the defeat of a German Empire which had, in association with the armies of Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey, committed unspeakable acts of aggression and genocide against Belgians, Serbs, Armenians, and Arabs in Europe and the Near East

So it was that on April 6, 1917, Congress declared war, and the United States mobilized by taking the steps necessary to building the machines of war and to uniform America's young men between the ages of 21 and 31 who would wear into combat clothing like that I am wearing.¹ National Guard units from every state were called up and together with the 135,000 men in the Regular Army the United States began to send soldiers to France to fight along side Belgian, French, and British troops that had been fighting the Germans and their supporters since August of 1914. French and British leaders expected the American to act as replacement troops and feed into the existing French and British armies, but President Wilson, Secretary of War Baker, and General Pershing made it clear that the American Army would fight to defend American principles and so would fight "embedded" with the Allied forces only long enough to learn what they needed to know about German battlefield tactics. More importantly though, at least to the Allies, the United States made it clear that the roughly 650,000 Americans fighting in Northern France by the end of 1917 were only a small number of the men the US was prepared to send in an all-out effort to defeat Germany. It was expected that by the end of 1918 at least two million Americans would be in the field, to be followed by another 3 million in 1919.

The British and French believed we were naive. The Germans laughed at us. The American army was inexperienced. Its most recent fights had been in 1915 in northern Mexico against Pancho Villa, the Mexican Revolutionary who had on several occasions, crossed into the United States to rob banks and steal provisions for his army as he tried to seize control of Mexico's government. The only recent

¹ Erik: at this point you should step away from the podium while wearing the cordless microphone that should be there for each speak to use and describe your uniform and "kit." If you don't have a WWI era rifle I will loan you my 1917 Springfield .303.

real war fought by the United States had been that against Spain in 1898. This Spanish-American war was over in a few short weeks and was fought largely in Cuba and the Philippines. The Europeans all said (quote) "these Americans know nothing of real war and their enthusiasm will be dampened when they see real combat."(end quote)

These experts all sang a different tune when Americans demonstrated their mettle at Cantigny, Chateau-Thierry and Bellau Woods, in stemming a German offensive in the Spring and early Summer of 1918 that became possible when the Russian Revolution brought to an end Russian involvement in the world war. This allowed Germany to transfer 900,000 soldiers from the Russian front to France, where the Germans expected to quickly dispatch the Americans. In this the Germans were mistaken. The American presence in northern France bolstered the French and British armies, not so much through numbers of men, but the boost in morale. For example, it was at Cantigny that Marine Captain Lloyd Williams, when ordered to retreat by a French officer of higher rank replied (quote) "Retreat? Hell no. We just got here!" (end quote) So tenacious was their defense that the Germans called them something that in translation is "Devil Dogs." Throughout the summer of 1918 the Germans could not advance their lines. Then in September of 1918 the 200,000 men of the American First Army began its first great attack as an independent army. The Germans were driven from St. Mihiel, and the Americans captured 13,000 German soldiers and 200 artillery pieces.. Two weeks later the American army led an attack in the Argonne Forest that resulted in the capture of 33,000 Germans on a single day. So rapid was the American advance and the German retreat that the only thing that prevent the Americans from continuing to the pre-war boundary of Germany was the inability of transportation units to bring up sufficient supplies on muddy, congested roads.

The Europeans were astonished at the courage of the Americans and in October of 1918 the German High Command recommended to the Kaiser that he ask for a cease-fire, but the allies declined. President Wilson insisted that German soldiers withdraw to Germany's pre-war boundaries before any talks began and that the German Emperor agree to step down so the a German Republic could be formed. The Emperor refused, but the German people threatened rebellion and

German soldiers by the thousands refused to fight on. The prospect of facing millions of enthusiastic American soldiers in 1918 while battling against fellow Germans to retain control of the Government was too much for the Kaiser to bear. His son, Prince Max, formed a new government and sent peace overtures to the Allies. The whole of the German army began to withdraw and on November 11, 1918, at 11am a cease-fire was declared.

Liberty Cemetery was founded in anticipation of the arrival of the bodies of hundreds of young men from Fresno and nearby communities who would die in combat in northern France. Ultimately, only a small number did. More soldiers and sailors actually died from disease than from combat. Among these were three, Peter Barsaglini, Homer Trower, and Neil Manderville, who died in camps of instruction and were buried here before the 1918 dedication took place. They rest just east of the tall flag pole near the memorial gate that opens onto West Belmont Avenue. And nearby is a "cenotaph" or monument to the memory of Seaman Lester Cartwright, an 18 year old from Malaga, who was entombed when the submarine he was serving on collided in dense fog off San Pedro on December 17, 1917, and sank with all hands. Two other valley men died with him on Submarine F-1. These were Charles Vincent of Exeter and Elbert Smith of Merced. Fifty-eight years later, in November of 1975, and quite by accident, a research ship photographed the wreckage of submarine F-1 on the bottom of the ocean at a depth of 1,400 feet. The Navy has no plans to recover the remains, but someday cenotaphs Vincent and Smith should be erected in their home towns.

What is noteworthy about Cartwright today is that he was actually the first Fresno area man to die in the service during the First World War, not Homer Blevins, who was killed in action in France on May 27, 1918. Perhaps half a dozen photographs in the *Fresno Republican* and the *Fresno Bee* from 1919 to 1944 show Homer's mother decorating his grave with flowers with a caption that says she is the mother of the first Fresno man to die in the World War. He was, nevertheless, the first to die in France, and during the World War, 110,000 Americans lost their lives from a variety of causes including 45,000 who died during the global flu epidemic of 1918-1919. This epidemic is thought to have taken the lives of between 20 and 25 million people globally, about 675,000 of

whom were Americans. Some of these are at rest throughout this extensive group of cemeteries.

The Armistice that ended the First World War took effect and negotiations brought about Peace, but less than twenty years later a Germany lead by a Fuhrer who had served as a corporal in the German army and been awarded the coveted Iron Cross for his courage plunged the world into a second global conflict from 1939 to 1945, one that called again for the sacrifice of many men and women buried here at Liberty Cemetery. Suffice it to say that we all today owe these heroes our gratitude, for if they had not been the boys of a Greatest Generation, we might all today be living in a dictatorship run by fascists.

Bill:

Thank you Erik for your history lesson. A drink of water is in order, and another song. Let us join in singing "My County tis' of thee."

[while this is sung one of the Clampers is to come to stand beside you. After introducing him, you will surrender the microphone to him so that he can us it at the monument to be unveiled.]

15) **Music: "My Country Tis of thee" performed by the audience**

" My country, tis of thee

"Sweet land of Liberty

"Of thee I sing

"Land where my fathers died

"Land of the pilgrim's pride

"From every mountain side

"Let freedom ring

Bill:

" Next I would like to introduce () who will share a few words about the monument yonder commemorating the 100th

anniversary of Liberty Cemetery.

16) Unveiling of the Monument commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Liberty Cemetery by E Clampus Vitus, James Savage Chapter 1852, with comments by members of E.C.V.

text not available;

Bill:

Thank you (name)

Next David Davenport will read the address delivered by Mansell Gallaher, a Fresno attorney, at the dedication of Liberty Cemetery in 1918.

[there is a good possibility that I will edit on the fly much of what appears below because it is looking to me like this is a very long program]

17) Reading by David Davenport of M. G. Gallaher's Memorial Day Oration on Memorial Day 1918 as published in the *Fresno Morning Republican* of May 31, 1918.

"To the Chairman of the Liberty Cemetery committee, to Soldiers of Wars Past and Present, and My Fellow Citizens.

"It is indeed a pleasure and and honor to participate in the exercises of this occasion. A most fitting time and a most fitting day is this, a day set apart for the commemoration of the achievements of the soldiers of the great war that established forever the United States of American as an inseparable union, a fitting day on which to do this deed of charity and of patriotism that we have met to perform.

"Fidelity of the citizen to his own country has ever been a marked virtue. Patriotic devotion to the principles of our American institutions is in these stressful times a special virtue. Our country had had a matchless history. Born of the fight of our forefathers for freedom and the struggles and sacrifices of brave men and women; reunited and its union cemented with the blood of patriots in a great civil war; rededicated twenty years ago to the proposition that all men are equal, and its principles carried to a distressed

and oppressed people; with a history of progress and development unequaled in any country in any age, it is but natural that we at this time of the world's greatest crisis feel a solemn and deep sense of patriotism that impels us to make every sacrifice that may be necessary to carry our flag to another triumph.

A Year Ago

But little more than one year ago our country was at peace; all Europe was engaged in a great struggle between the principle of the equality of men and the right on one hand, and special privileges, might and tyranny on the other. The representative officers of our great nation believed that it was possible for our country to pass through this age of transformation, revolution and reconstruction without the sacrifice of our treasure, of our blood and of our men. The American people going forward in the march of progress and material development, believed and prayed that we might be saved from our part in the great struggle for humanity, but "There is a divinity that shapes our ends."

Without recounting the causes that impelled us to go to war, the American people now believe that it was our destiny to carry our flag of freedom on to the battlefields of Europe in the cause of mankind. Since that time there has been a transformation in the sentiments, in the hopes, in the aspirations, and in the patriotism on the people of the United States of America. Turning from the all-absorbing business of accumulating money, creating property, and providing for the material welfare of our people, we have engaged in the altruistic business of devoting the God-given resources of our country, our money, our property and our man power to this great cause. Without murmur or complaint the great captains of industry or our country have mobilized their instrumentalities of production into the service of the country; the railroad magnates have cheerfully turned over to the common cause the means of transportation of the country so essential to the successful prosecution of the one great business in which we are engaged.

More important still, the great army of laborers of the United States of America who toil with their hands to provide for themselves and their families, are giving of their earnings in large proportion patriotically and devotedly to the great common cause of our country and to the cause of humanity. More beautiful, if not indeed, more important, patriotic women of the country have organized themselves into a great mobilized force of labor, or production and of charity, and through the Red Cross, the Y. W. C. A. and the various women of civilian war organizations of the country, they stand behind the men who have gone forward to serve, to do battle, if need be to die, that our country may live. But most important and beyond all these evidences of devotion, ten million of our young men between the ages of 21 and 31 years of age have uncomplainingly and courageously submitted to their country's command and are giving their services, their blood, their limbs, and their lives in this holy cause.

No looking Back

American had put her hand to the plow; she will not look back. Ever forward until victory shall have crowned our devotion and our sacrifices, shall be the watchword of America. Taxes must be raised and the people will cheerfully pay them. Money must be loaned to the government and three times have we gone over the top [in purchasing bonds to support the war], and we shall go over the top at every call of our country. The sick and the wounded and dying must be cared for and the ministrations of the Red Cross and of kindred societies will not cease so long as the American army stands at the front as a barrier against the Hun. Three million fathers and mothers have already pressed the hand of the patriotic son who marched away to fight for us; two million strong, stalwart Americans have already gone forward into training. Sixteen cities [camps] of devoted patriots have been built in the United States of America. From these have already gone forth more than one million men across the ocean to make, if necessary, the utmost sacrifice for us. Just now thousands are upon the submarine infested seas, going forth to

face the dangers, the disasters of cruel and barbarous war; just now in once beautiful but now devastated France, more than a million Americans stand facing the guns of the enemy; just now, with all the accumulated preparation and determination of the past fifty years concentrated on the battle line in Europe, stand the millions of the minions of the house of Hohenzollern and the House of Hapsburg. Just now the last titanic struggle of autocracy for perpetual supremacy over democracy is on; just now out on "No Man's Land" American soldiers lay wounded and dying; just now millions of mothers in the United States wait and watch, amidst work in the cause, to know what has been the fate of a dear son just now all America shall tell whether that line of men who have stood like a stone wall between civilization and barbarous militarism for three years past shall be broken and destroyed or whether the matchless bravery and fearful fighting qualities of the Briton, the Australian, the Canadian, the valiant Frenchman, and the matchless American shall bring victory at this time and once for all stay the iron hand of tyranny in its ruthless destruction of all that is dear and all that is of value in the world.

The unreturning

We know that thousands and tens of thousands of those who go forth to fight will return with empty sleeve, on crutches, with blinded eye and diseased body. We know that thousands and tens of thousands of those who have gone forth to battle for our country and for us, will never return. We know that on "No Man's Land," in the trenches, on the once vine-clad hills but now barren wastes of Western France will sleep the heroes of our flag. We know that beneath the rolling waves of the ocean now sleep those who have gone down to an untimely death by the ruthless, barbarous warfare of the Hun. We know that some time the sacred bodies of those who lay down their lives in France will be taken up from the graves that are now cared for by the loving hands of the devoted women of France, and returned to the sacred soil of their native land. Time was when love had no place in the councils of war, but this is a holy war; it is a war for humanity and all that

men and women hold dear, and in the midst of preparation, in the midst of our sacrifices, we do not forget the tender cords of love that bind fathers and mothers to son and friend to friend; we do not forget that greater and grander love that goes out to all of our soldiers and to those who die for us. How fitting, then, the exercises of this day; how, then, in harmony with the spirit, the sentiment of patriotism and altruism it is that the Binai Brit has given this beautiful ground for the last resting place of those who lay down their lives in their country's defense; how fitting that the city of Fresno accepts this ground to be dedicated as the place that our soldiers in that war shall rest and sleep the long, long sleep of the dead. How sweet the thought that those who go from our city and county and give their lives for us shall some time mingle their dust with the loved soil of their own Edenic California.

The Toll of Battle

We wish that all those who have gone and all those who will yet go from our midst might return. Yet we know that lives must be sacrificed and that our boys with their innumerable hosts from other parts of our loved [beloved] land must make their share of the last sacrifice. If among them there be those that the sea will not give up, or those whose last resting place shall be found in the barren waste of the battlefields of a far-off country, they shall have their place here and a stone will tell the story; and after a while the fathers and mothers, the brothers and sisters and loved ones who have given their treasure, the life of the dear one, in this great cause, in the solemn moments when the vacant place at the table shall bring back in tremendous force the memories of their kindness at home and their devotion to their country's cause, this will be a sacred and solemn retreat - solemn indeed, but a place of joy. Under the shade of the trees plants by loving hands, midst the blooming flowers of our own California, to the quiet walks and drives in this sacred place, they will come - and what a place for meditation this will be! Aged mothers here will again hear the prattle of the child who once twined its arms about her neck - that she so often sang to sleep with her lullaby songs;

here in memory's care she will again hear the first formed words of her child; here the playful pranks and childish mischief of her loved one will come back to her with the force of reality; here she will again, with her boy, in memory, recount his joys, his sorrows, his disappointments and his triumphs of each day; here the aged father and mother with mind's eye, see the buoyant youth - the treasure of their hearts - the hope of their life - grown to manhood, stalwart and strong with set jaw and determined face, press their hands and take his place in the line of march with the stream of young American manhood, going forth to the great battlefields of Europe; here again the hopes and aspirations of a father's and mother's love will wonder at the fortune of their son; here again, in memory's ear they will hear the call of their county and the answer of their son; and here they will live again the anxious hours, days, weeks and months of waiting for tidings from the son, and here again they will hear the story that he has given his life that his country and our might live. This will be a place at once of sadness and or solemn joy - sadness that their hopes for an ambitious son were blighted by his death - joy that he once lived and that they could give and he could give a precious life in a holy cause. Here they will again witness the transformation and reconstruction of the principles of government and of nations. Here, contemplating the triumph of right through the sacrifice of a son, and the millions of sons, who were sacrificed in this titanic struggle, what seemed but cruel less will be solemn joy. here fathers and mothers and young men and women, and children as well, will drink from the fountains of patriotism and dedicate themselves to the principles for which our heroes died.

We honor the mayor of our city for the plan that culminates in this dedication. We thanks the Liberty Cemetery committee and its chairman for the execution in so fine fashion of the plan; we thank the patriotic benevolent society that donated this ground to be beautified and dedicated to this holy purpose. We than the labor unions of Fresno for the labor that beautifies the sacred spot. We honor all those Americans who patriotically devoted their energies to the great cause in which we are engaged. We honor the fathers

and mothers who are giving their sons for the defense of our country; we honor our heroes in the camp and on the ocean and in France, who fight our battles. We give our cheers, our gratitude and tears to the soldiers who have given their lives and those who will yet give their lives for our flag, for what it represents and for humanity. To them we dedicate this Liberty Cemetery. To us they consecrate this ground.

Bill:

"Thank you David for your reading of Mansel Gallaher's 1918 speech.

"We now turn to the "icing on the cake." No ceremony as solemn as this one is complete without the playing of "taps" by a bugler and the firing of appropriate volleys to honor our fallen heroes. Today we are humbled to have Manuel Hernandez of American legion Post 509 to play taps while guard by a squad of rifle men, to be followed immediately without further introduction the firing of volleys by an honor guard from Post 3225 for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"Manuel, step to the fore."

18) Playing of Taps by American Legion Post 509, Manuel Hernandez, bugler, with honor guard of 4-6 rifles.

19) Volley fire in memory of fallen comrades by VFW Post 3225

Bill:

Offer the following comment. "Liberty Cemetery is full. A few grave sites remain for loved ones of veterans already buried here. We pray that the sacrifices of these veterans and their loved ones will never be forgotten. And as evening turns to dusk it is time to retire the colors and ask Col. Eddy to provide the benediction to the services here in 1920 first delivered by Rev Stearns of Eastport, Maine sometime in the late 19th century.

"Cadets, retrieve the colors."

[Col. Eddy will know when to approach the podium]

21) **Retiring of the Colors by the JROTC Cadet Corps of Design Science High School. -**

22) **Benediction by Col. Eddy - "Cherish the Veterans" by Rev. Wm. Stearns of Eastport, ME**

"One final thought, and we are here today finished.

"Let us cherish the life and services of those who have served each of us. let us recognize the sacrifices they have made, and love all the more the institutions which under God they have saved. Let us keep unspoiled and unsullied the principles and Government which they defended for us.

"And to those who left their homes to fight for and maintain their country's honor and are now resting with the silent dead, peace be unto you.

"We would decorate your graves to-day; we would make them bloom as the rose; we would shed a tear in your memory; we would raise a monument to your honor, to your work. We would rear it of granite and of nature's simplest flowers, the early Spring products of your own country. On it we would inscribe, not in letters of gold nor touched with diamond point, but with flowers wrought in the simplest design, words fitting to your life and death - God, America, and Humanity.

"Soldiers and other comrades-in-arms, sleep in peace. We bid you farewell, till the great day when Nations shall be judged before the great white throne. And our prayer is, that you may not only as patriots, but as Christians, meet your God, to go out no more forever.

Bill: you may at this time dismiss the audience IF they have not already begun to disperse as a result of Col. Eddy's benediction