

Orange Live

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Letter to the Editor: From Kevin Gilbert

June 14, 2012

By [Terri Miles](#)

To the Editor:



The WWII Veterans were a huge part of the Memorial Day Ceremony this year.

The Town of Orange Memorial Day Ceremonies and Parade were held on Sunday, May 27, 2012. James M. White, Lt. Colonel – U.S. Army retired, West Point graduate and Vietnam veteran was the Grand Marshal. Vito J. DeVito, World War II Army veteran, and Purple Heart recipient was the Chief of Staff. The Honored Veterans this year were all World War II veterans, living or deceased, who served from 1941 – 1945. The Reverend Ann M. Ritonia, Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Orange, and U.S. Marine veteran from 1979 – 2007 was the Keynote Speaker. Diane Raikis sang the National Anthem. Robert Mirto, Esq. was the Master of Ceremonies and Fred O'Brien, Esq. was the Parade Announcer.

Memorial Day was coordinated by (yours truly) Kevin Gilbert. The services at the Veteran's Memorial Monument at the Orange Center Cemetery were led by Lawrence Czajkowski, Commander, American Legion Post #127. Wreaths were laid at the monument by the American Legion Auxiliary and the Jewish War Veterans.

We would like to acknowledge those who made the day successful including the Highway Department, the Police Department, the Police Benevolent Association (PBA), the American Legion and its Auxiliary, the Fire Department, and the Park & Recreation Grounds Department.

A special “Thank You” to the Orange Cemetery Association in memory of Marjorie Case who bequest funds each year to help defray parade costs, The Orange Foundation for the plaques given to the honorees, Eagle Leasing for the use of a flat bed trailer that was used as our reviewing stand, Chris Winkle for the use of a bus and driver to shuttle people to and from the cemetery and back to the parade grounds, Tom Hill for the use of two outdoor conveniences.

Also, the Graphic Arts Department of Amity Senior High School for their banners, Pinpoint Pro Motions & Printing for their poster boards, Stitch and Print Logo Wear for their generous contributions, COSTCO for their donation, Mr. Kold Kuts for their help, Stop & Shop for their donation.

Also, Bob Fantarella for his audio system, and Robert Mirto and Superior Roofing & Installation for the purchase of hats given to the World War II veterans.

Another special “Thank You” to Rich and Jeanne-Consiglio Hoin for their large food donation given in memory of Milton Consiglio, deceased, who also was a veteran. Their donation was used for the World War II veteran’s luncheon held after the parade. Lastly, we thank the school readers and the boys and girls who handed out all the flags and programs during the ceremonies.

Generous contributions from private parties and organizations were received to honor our fallen veterans and to support the soldiers who are presently serving our country.

Kevin Gilbert,
Memorial Day Parade Coordinator