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Department of Veterans Affairs

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES PLANNED

Pineville, LA – Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities throughout the country will observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 27, with ceremonies recognizing service members who have given their lives for their country.

Flags will be placed on the 7,816 graves at the Alexandria National Cemetery at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 25, in preparation for Memorial Day. The Alexandria National Cemetery is located at 209 East Shamrock Street in Pineville. The public is invited to attend to be a part of this annual tradition.

On Monday, May 27, the Memorial Day Program at the National Cemetery will begin at 9:45 a.m. with a musical prelude. After the flag raising, the program will continue with guest speaker, The Honorable Jeffery Hall, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, placing of wreaths by various Veteran service organizations, a rifle salute and the playing of taps.

Some seating will be available, but you are welcome to bring your lawn chairs. In case of bad weather, the ceremony will be held at the Alexandria VA Medical Center's Auditorium, Building 8, located at 2495 Shreveport Highway, Pineville. To confirm location of the program, please contact the Alexandria VA operators at (318) 473-0010.

In addition to the formal ceremonies planned across the nation, all Americans are asked to participate in a National Moment of Remembrance by pausing wherever they are at 3:00 pm on Monday, May 27, and taking a moment to remember and honor those men and women who died in service to our country. Congress established this National Moment of Remembrance to

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put the “memorial” back in Memorial Day and to reclaim its original purpose of honoring America’s fallen heroes.

The time was chosen because mid-afternoon is when many Americans are enjoying the freedoms ensured by those who fought to preserve them. The one-minute pause in activities is not intended to replace Memorial Day ceremonies, but to highlight the purpose of Memorial Day and to reflect on the sacrifice of those who died for our freedom.

For more information on Memorial Day activities, call the Alexandria VA Medical Center, Voluntary Service, at (318) 466-2540/2061.

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