



MASSACHUSETTS  
**Fallen Heroes**

May Newsletter



## MEMORIAL DAY

*amidst a global pandemic*

From Mother's Day to Memorial Day, May has always been a busy, important time for MFH. Adapting to the current reality of social distancing and isolation was a challenge to which the team certainly rose. Thanks to you and all of our supporters we were able to ensure our mission to Honor, Support, and Empower our post-9/11 Fallen Heroes, Gold Star Families, and Veterans continues to succeed.



# EDUCATION

"Memorial Monday" to "Freedom Friday"

## Poppy Wreath Craft



### Supplies:

- Egg crate
- 1 Paper plate
- Scissors
- Paint or Markers (Red, Black,
- Paintbrush and small cups for
- Glue
- Ruler and pencil (optional)
- Marker for 'Remember'

We encourage you to post your #PoppiesforPatriots on your social media. We will be sharing your posts.

## EDUCATION PROGRAM

### *A stay-at-home alternative*

A virtual workbook for each day of the week leading up to Memorial Day, including crafts and lessons and activity prompts, was shared with the public to further educate youth about the true meaning of Memorial Day.

## CONTINUING THE FARRAR LEGACY

### *Swearing in a Gold Star Son*

We were proud to stand alongside the Farrars, Gold Star Family of U.S. Marine Sgt. Andrew K. Farrar, as they watched Andy's oldest son, Tyler, be sworn into the U.S. Marine Corps. He stood in front of the memorial with his father's name as he took an oath to protect this country.



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# VIRTUAL TRIBUTES

*Mother's Day and Memorial Day*



## FOR OUR GOLD STAR MOMS

### *A Mother's Day Message*

Supporters, Veterans, first responders, professional athletes, and many more joined us in creating a montage of personal videos. This seventeen minute tribute was our "virtual hug" to Gold Star Mothers.

## FOR MEMORIAL DAY

### *To Honor and Recognize*

In lieu of our 10th Annual Memorial Dinner, we created a sixty minute virtual tribute to our Fallen and Gold Star Families.

Individual videos from the montage were shared throughout Memorial Day.



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# FLAGS FOR THE FALLEN

*Honoring our Fallen while social distancing*



## FLAGS FOR THE FALLEN

*One for each Fallen Hero*

While practicing social distancing a small group of MFH staff and volunteers were able to create a sea of flags in the Seaport Common on Armed Forces Day in Honor of our Fallen Heroes and their Families.

## WREATH LAYING & SERVICE FLAGS

*One for each branch*

Service flags and wreaths in honor of each branch were placed before the reflecting pool and beneath the Emond Square sign.



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# AT THE MEMORIAL

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## FLYOVER

*Canceled due to weather*

F15s from the 104th Fighter Wing of the Massachusetts National Guard were to conduct a flyover of the MFH Memorial in recognition of our Massachusetts Fallen Heroes at 11:45 AM on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th.

## THE FLAG FOR THE FALLEN

*Raised by crane*

Our traditional raising of the American Flag for the Fallen at daybreak was observed without missing a beat. It is truly a sight to behold!



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# GOLD STAR FAMILIES

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## LIVESTREAM FROM THE MFH POP UP TENT

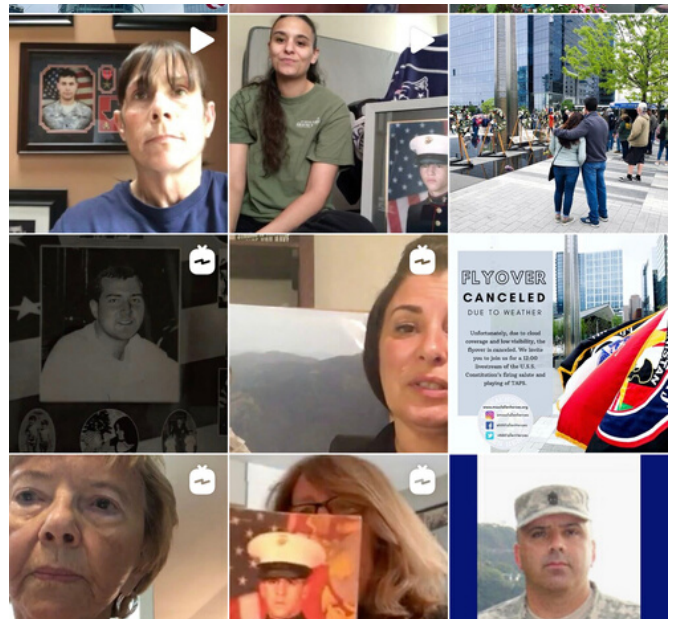
*Thanks to the USS Constitution*

The Memorial Day Commemorative 21-Gun Salute was streamed via Facebook Live and projected throughout the crowd on speakers. This provided a sense of ceremony for all of us involved and was followed by the playing of patriotic music for the entire afternoon.

## GOLD STAR STORIES

*Highlighted all day*

Each of our Gold Star Family video submissions was shared via each social media platform throughout the day to further Honor the Fallen and to further highlight the MFH mission.



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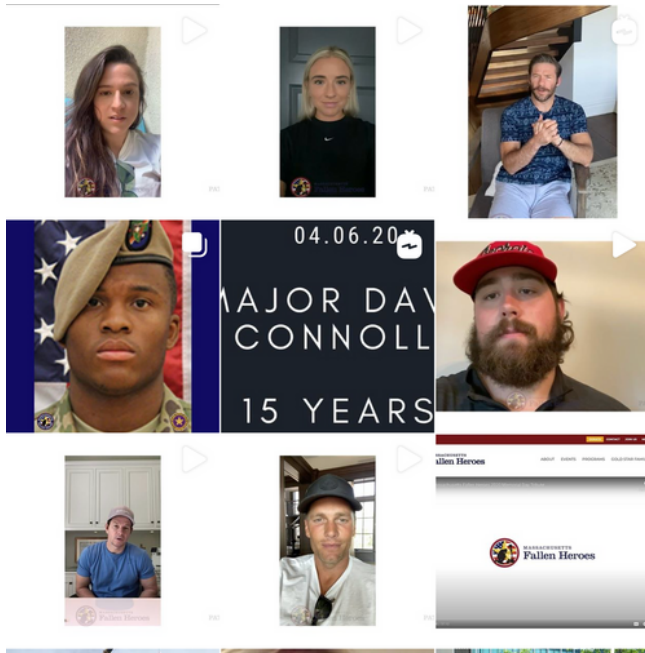
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# CELEBRITY SUPPORT

*Honoring our Fallen while social distancing*



## VIDEOS FROM SUPPORTERS

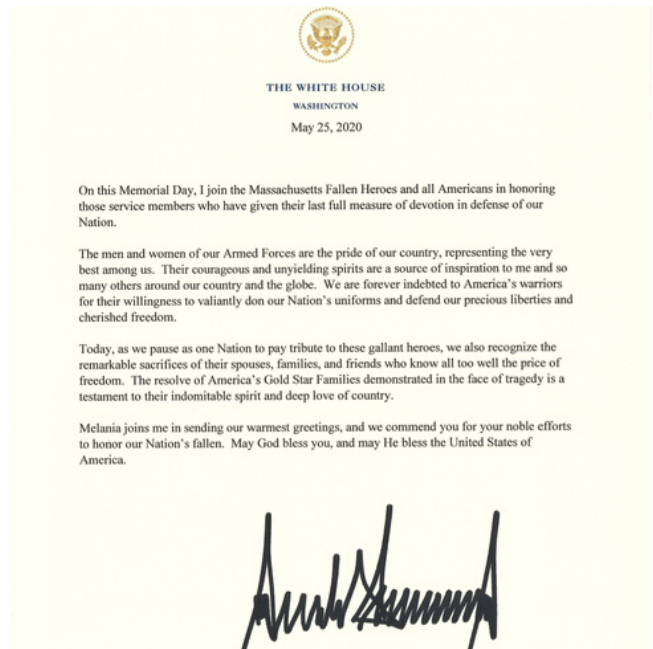
*Highlighted throughout the week*

Each of our celebrity video submissions, including Tom Brady, Mark Wahlberg, David Andrews, Julian Edelman, and others, was shared the week following Memorial Day on each social media platform to further highlight the MFH mission.

## FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

*A note from the President*

The President of the United States sent word he was joining MFH "in honoring those service members who have given their last full measure of devotion in defense of our Nation" this Memorial Day.



# CONTINUED

*Honoring our Fallen while social distancing*



## REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN

*On their anniversaries*

For the entirety of 2020, MFH will continue to post a series launched this year. On the anniversaries of their ultimate sacrifice, our Fallen are posted with their stories told as a way to spread awareness, share with our Gold Star Families, and further memorialize the Massachusetts Fallen Heroes who gave their life for our country. They are never forgotten.

## VIRTUAL GATHERINGS

*They never stopped*

Held each week since February, the Gold Star Family virtual meetings for trivia night and bingo have not stopped. Hosted via Zoom by Kelsey, these gatherings offer our GSFs a place to come together in lieu of our Family First Program gatherings.



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## **WE ARE STILL HERE**

*The mission continues*

MFH will continue to adapt and evolve to Honor, Support, and Empower our Fallen, Gold Star Families, and Veterans without fail. This Memorial Day may have looked a little different but there was no less reflection, honor, or support. Look out for our newsletters this summer!

