

Enderlin INDEPENDENT

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Memorial Day, 2025

By Lynn Bueling

“So long as they speak your name, you shall never die.”

We will again observe Memorial Day on the 26th of May, a day to commemorate and honor the men and women of the U.S. military who died while serving their country. Ceremonies will be held in communities with active military groups, speeches will be given, a three-shot rifle volley signifying duty, honor, and sacrifice will resound with a sharp crack of salute, and the notes of a somber bugler playing “Taps” will echo among their graves.

When did the observance begin? The origins of Memorial Day are open to debate, but we know parts of the country began recognizing the day back in 1868. It wasn’t officially adopted as a federal holiday until 1971. As a young boy it was common for me to hear the day called Decoration Day. Once in awhile it is still referred to that way.

Depending on the source, numbers of U.S. service members killed while in service varies. Approximations of those numbers include 58,000 in Vietnam, 36,000 in Korea, 420,000 in WWII, and 53,000 in WWI. In addition other smaller wars have claimed their victims, too. If we consider the Civil War, 620,000 died in that conflict.

I have not served in the military and cannot pretend to know anything about battlefield conditions. For the most part veterans do not speak comfortably about it. The sights, sounds, and smells of war still haunt the memories they’d just as soon forget. I have to leave it to the histories, news reports, diaries, memoirs, and on-site videos to inform me. Some movies might give us glimpses of the horrors.

The book written for Sheldon’s 125th anniversary celebration contains lengthy diary writings. The earliest war covered features the “Civil War Diary of Frank Mougey.” His account tells of their bad living conditions plus punishing discipline handed to them by a “mean officer.” In one place he makes brief mention of “Skirmishing pretty hard. Our loss was about 250 kild and 60 wounded.”

“Cliff Black’s War Memories” holds little back in describing his experience. He said, “Here was the end of rail travel; bridges were blown up, very little remains of what was once a highway, rails and roadbed blown up, shell holes galore, barbed wire entanglements, blown up tanks, destroyed planes, could this be real.” After a battle, Black observed, “Death and destruction had tramped through ruthlessly, leaving in their wake the muddy clay trenches,

strewn with tangled barbed wire, mangled bodies of our buddies and those of the enemy...”

Records of my grandfather’s service in WWI gave us his regiment and division. From there it was easy to search for and find where he served. It was at the bloody battle of Meuse-Argonne in France. An excellent book telling of that battle, To Conquer Hell by Edward Lengel, outlined his participation very well. Some skimpy notes he penciled in his small Bible mentioned that on one drive toward enemy lines, his unit succeeded in reaching their goal but had to retreat. The regiments on either side of his had not kept pace thereby exposing their flanks. That day he scrawled, “We lost half our men.” Lengel’s book attests to Grandpa’s account.

Ernie Pyle’s reporting as a WWII war correspondent from the front lines served to inform the country back home of hard truths. He stayed with the soldiers, ate the same food, wore the same clothes, slept in the same foxholes, and took a bullet in his head while peering over the edge of one. By the time of his death, Ernie’s trusted columns appeared in 400 daily and 300 weekly newspapers.

One of Pyle’s frequently mentioned columns described the death of a respected officer in Italy he titled “The Death of Captain Waskow.” After a battle on a mountain, he told of how, “Dead men had been coming down from the mountain all evening, lashed onto the backs of mules.” After a time someone recognized the captain and reverently honored him as he lay there.

David Halberstam wrote of his times embedded with men and women on the front lines. What he saw and experienced in Vietnam caused him to question the official reports from Washington that told the public how great things were going for the U. S. military. He wrote that leaders in Washington implemented policies that defied common sense and went against the advice of seasoned Department of State employees who knew and understood Vietnam.

All of the past wars and sufferings brings us to Memorial Day commemorations. This day does not always receive the degree of attention it deserves but one option exists, we can offer a moment of silence at 3 p.m. for the National Moment of Remembrance. Its intent is to remember and honor those who have died in service to the United States. Established by President William Clinton in 2000, it is an act of national unity to remember the sacrifices of fallen service members.

2025 Memorial Day Services

Enderlin VFW
Post 9050

Peterson-Swenson
American Legion
Post #83

Sheldon American
Legion Percy G. Carter
Post #22

SEE PAGE 4 for
COMPLETE SCHEDULE



Board approves master contract for 25-26 school year; discussion on cell phone legislation

by Frank Egan
Enderlin Independent Reporter

The Enderlin Area School Board held its’ monthly meeting on Tuesday May 13th, at 7:30 AM.

Attending were board members Paul Billing, Katie Geske, Josh Warg, Brian Midthun, and Pat Stansbury. Administration and staff members present were business manager Tammy Boeder, Superintendent Philip French, and high school principal Kayl Hamre. Guests at the meeting were Sara McNeeley representing the Enderlin Education Association and Frank Egan from the Enderlin Independent.

Mr. Billing called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda, bills and financial reports were approved.

Mr. Hamre submitted a written report to the board. Graduation will be held in the new gym on Sunday, May 25th. The ceremony will begin at 2:30 PM. Seniors will be taking part in a city-wide community service project. The day will involve cleaning, painting, weeding, and spreading mulch at various locations in Enderlin. Thursday the 22nd will be a half-day of school with the busses running at 12:30.

The board discussed the passing of SB 2354 which puts a state-wide “bell to bell” electronic device ban for students during school hours into effect on August 1st. The legislature directs school boards to develop specific policies for device storage and enforcement. Mr. Billing stated that while he agrees with the intent of the new law, it is an example of an “unfunded mandate” from state lawmakers which will require a whole new level of management and potential liability for school districts to enforce. Mr. Hamre said that they will gain more information from the administration/board state-level meetings this summer. Mr. French stated that “kids will adapt to the new law, parents will be the problem.” He also said that

teachers will need to set an example for students during the school day.

The board approved summer school classes consisting of drivers training, math and reading classes and drama classes.

The board approved ancillary staff wage increases as follows – paraprofessionals \$0.25 per hour, Kitchen staff – Hope Nelson \$0.50 per hour. Custodians will receive \$0.25 per hour. Administrative Assistants will receive \$0.50 per hour. The Tech manager will receive a \$0.50 per hour increase. The business manager, Mrs. Boeder, will receive a \$1.00 per hour increase. Motion made to accept all posted ancillary wage increases. Moved/approved.

The board renewed NDIRF insurance but did not increase coverage which remained at seven million dollars. The master contract has been agreed by the EEA and the board committee. A 1-year contract as opposed to a two-year contract was agreed upon. This was due to uncertainty about state funding and potential changes to property tax structure. The board approved the master contract. It will be posted on the school website.

Mr. French spoke about the newly legislated 3% cap on mills. Anything beyond that level must go to a public vote. This will make it more difficult for schools to supplement funding.

The next meeting will be held on June 10th at 8 AM.

**EDITOR NEEDED AT THE
ENDERLIN INDEPENDENT.**
For details contact
Art at 701-883-5393.

*If you need to contact the
Enderlin Independent, and no
answer, please call the LaMoure
Chronicle, 701-883-5393.*

Enderlin VFW
Post 9050

Open Mon. - Sat. 2 p.m.
Happy Hour 4-7 p.m.
701-437-3914



Off Sale Available

Tuesday
BASKETS
Burgers &
Chicken Strips

5-8 PM
Eat In/Carry Out

Wednesday
Homemade
Pizza &
Wings
No Pizza's
or Wings
May 28th

THURSDAY
NEW
Ladies Night
Out May 29
Drink Specials and
More!
Details to follow

Happy
Memorial Day
Closed
Please attend all
Memorial Day Services