

Dear Arlington Family,

Another Memorial Day has come and gone but every year at this time I feel there is a "residual sense of a renewal" that lingers long after the Memorial Day Weekend has passed. We can attribute this renewal to the events we held here on grounds over the weekend or our perhaps the speaker at our Flag Raising Ceremony, noted author and veteran's advocate, Dan Perkins. But I think that would be a discredit to all of us Americans who took the time this past weekend to reflect on the meaning of Memorial Day.

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I think it's fair to point out that the vast majority, the overwhelming majority, of Americans pay tribute to those who have sacrificed their lives in service to our country. Regardless of race, color, creed, political persuasion or any other method of atomizing the country's demographics, Americans understand the destructive force of death, what it means on a personal level and the tragic sorrow that must envelope the family of someone who loses their life while performing their patriotic duty.

So, while on the one hand we strive to provide opportunities for our community to collectively join together in formal memorial tributes, we have to acknowledge the ongoing interest - in fact, the hunger of so many who accept Memorial Day as a solemn responsibility of citizenship to remember and honor.

As a recap, visitors streamed into the grounds over the weekend to decorate graves, and in their own way, honor their loved ones. The wonderful weekend weather certainly played a part in the large number of visitors, but then we always seem to experience heavy traffic and visitation every year regardless of the weather. Our Sunday "Lunch With a Veteran" was an enormous success again this year with around 150 "civilians" attending to meet and talk with local veterans. The Flag Raising Ceremony followed the lunch and is always heartedly supported by the American Legion Post 513. The ceremony is always moving but it was especially marked this year by the sheer number of Post 513 members who have passed away since Memorial Day 2014. It's a stark reminder that we are losing veterans from the World War II and the Korean Conflict era at an astounding rate.

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To all of our weekend visitors, we can only hope that we were able to provide the type of services to you that we strive to produce day in and day out. We passed out surveys and received numerous comments, most of them good, but would be glad to hear from you at any time. Now, while it's fresh on your mind, is a great time to contact us with a service request. You can reach our Customer Care Specialist Lisa McClain by calling (513) 521-7003 or by emailing a request to us at [contact@amgardens.org](mailto:contact@amgardens.org).

The summer months are always a busy time at Arlington and we invite you to come to our Community Room at 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 6 for the kick-off of our Walking Club. We'll be providing additional information in the next two weeks, so if you're interested in getting some regular exercise, give us a call. We also invite you to attend the first of our three summer concerts on June 14th at 7:00 PM as we host the ["Parrots of the Caribbean," a Jimmy Buffet tribute band](#). We are all looking forward to this event and hope to see all of you there!

Sincerely,  
Daniel Applegate  
President, Arlington Memorial Gardens

Arlington Memorial Gardens | 2145 Compton Road | Cincinnati | OH | 45231