

THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER'S

# NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

COMMEMORATING THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND THE  
LIBERATION OF FRANCE

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
HISTORIC CONSTITUTION AVENUE

MAY 27, 2024





## A NATIONAL PARADE TO THANK VETERANS

Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is much more than a three-day weekend that marks the beginning of summer. To many people, especially the nation's thousands of combat veterans, this day, which has a history stretching back all the way to the Civil War, is an important reminder of those who died in the service of their country. In 2024 we honor those Americans who fought on the beaches of Normandy in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

In 2004, after a long absence, a parade returned to Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day to coincide with the dedication of the National World War II Memorial. This outpouring of appreciation to the veterans of World War II spilled over to veterans of the more recent conflicts. Anthony A. Williams, former Mayor of Washington, D.C., was so moved by this parade that he was instrumental in reinstating it as an annual event in conjunction with the American Veterans Center and Music Celebrations International.

Now, every year on Memorial Day, this three-hour parade passes alongside the National Mall on Constitution Avenue between 7th and 17th Streets in a magnificent salute to America's Veterans and in honor of those who died in defense of our country. The parade consists of select marching bands and veteran units from each of the 50 states honoring World War I, World War II, The Korean and Vietnam Conflicts, Desert Storm, and the liberation of Grenada, Panama, Iraq and Afghanistan. Large patriotic floats and helium-filled balloons are also part of the procession. More than 10,000 participants take part in the parade each year.



*"This is the single most memorable event of my teaching career of 22 years. I have participated in parades in Europe and all over the US, but none compared to the experience of the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. My students and I were overwhelmed with emotion as we approached the start of the parade. Once we turned the corner they marched with a sense of pride I have never experienced in my 11 years with this group. I have been in marching bands for 34 years, and the sense of pride we experienced by participating in this parade was second to none.*

Daniel Zettlemoyer,  
Band Director



# SAMPLE ITINERARY



## Day One

- Arrival in Washington, D.C.
- Meet your Tour Manager, who will escort the group through the duration of the tour
- Sightseeing may include a panoramic motorcoach tour of Historic Washington, D.C.
- Check-in to the hotel
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Evening walking tour of the Memorials and Monuments on the National Mall
- Return to the hotel for overnight



## Day Two

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Self-guided tour the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Remember the Children: Daniel's Story
- Lunch, on own
- Afternoon visit to Ford's Theater and the Petersen House
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Attend the official National Memorial Day Concert on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, featuring the National Symphony Orchestra
- Return to the hotel for overnight



## Day Three

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Morning sightseeing may include one of the Smithsonian Institution Museums
- Transfer to parade-staging area on the National Mall where boxed lunch is provided
- Participate in the National Memorial Day Parade on Historic Constitution Avenue
- Afternoon visit to one of the Smithsonian Institution Museums
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Return to the hotel for overnight



## Day Four

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out and board motorcoach
- Visit the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery and witness the Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (School/Government Issued ID required for entry for 16 years and older)
- Departure for home

*For Bands Traveling To Washington: Longer Or Shorter tour options, With Or Without Additional Performance Opportunities, are available upon request.*



The National Memorial Day Parade is a moving timeline of American military history, honoring those who have served and sacrificed from the American Revolution to the present day. It draws on the tradition of Memorial Day parades, going back to the beginning of the holiday just after the Civil War, to create a family friendly event aimed at calling attention to the true meaning of Memorial Day – honoring our fallen heroes.

Not merely an event for Washington, the National Memorial Day Parade is an event for the entire country—a major parade which seeks to draw the attention of Americans to the real meaning for the holiday: honoring those who have served, and died, to preserve our liberties.

Highlights include:

- Having the opportunity to honor and pay tribute to all American veterans for their dedication and service to our country
- Enjoying television coverage in the United States and across the globe\
- Witnessing veteran participation from recent national and global conflicts, including World War II, The Korean and Vietnam conflicts, the Gulf War, and the liberation of Afghanistan and Iraq
- Representing one's state alongside marching bands and veteran units from each of the 50 states
- Being one of more than 10,000 participants take part in the parade each year

For marching band inquiries, please contact:

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AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER



Music Celebrations International  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*

Music Celebrations International oversees band invitations, manages the parade acceptance process and is the exclusive tour provider for the National Memorial Day Parade.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE VISIT  
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