

THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER'S

# NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

SALUTING AMERICA'S MILITARY & FALLEN HEROES FROM THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION THROUGH AFGHANISTAN & IRAQ

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
HISTORIC CONSTITUTION AVENUE  
MAY 29, 2023





## A NATIONAL PARADE TO THANK VETERANS

**M**emorial 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 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



*You are to be commended for organizing this magnificent annual event in the nation's capital to honor those who died in service of their country.*

Colin Powell, Retired Four-Star General  
and Former United States Secretary of State

**N**ow, 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, War World 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.



## SAMPLE PARADE TOUR FOR BANDS



### DAY ONE – FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2023

- 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 into the hotel
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Visit the Marine Barracks for the official Evening Parade in resplendent Full Dress Marine uniforms (pending confirmation)
- Return to the hotel for overnight



### DAY TWO – SATURDAY, MAY 27

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Morning visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum *Remember the Children: Daniel's Story*
- Lunch, on own
- Afternoon visit to Ford's Theater, the Petersen House
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Evening walking tour of the Lincoln, Korean, Martin Luther King, Jr., Vietnam, and National World War II Memorials, as well as a view of the Washington Monument
- Return to the hotel for overnight



### DAY THREE – SUNDAY, MAY 28

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery and witness the Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns
- Lunch, on own
- Afternoon visit to one of the Smithsonian Institution Museums
- 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 and broadcast live on PBS
- Return to the hotel for overnight



### DAY FOUR – MONDAY, MAY 29 – MEMORIAL DAY

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out and board motorcoach
- Morning sightseeing may include one of the Smithsonian Institution Museums
- Transfer to parade staging area on the National Mall where box lunch is provided
- **Participate in the National Memorial Day Parade on Historic Constitution Avenue**
- Following the parade, depart for home

**FOR BANDS TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON: LONGER OR SHORTER TOUR OPTIONS, WITH OR WITHOUT ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES, ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.**

*They are dead; but they live in each Patriot's breast, and their names are engraven on honor's bright crest.*

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



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.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE VISIT  
[AMERICANVETERANSCENTER.ORG/PARADE](http://AMERICANVETERANSCENTER.ORG/PARADE)



*Produced by the*

American Veterans Center

*and*

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Music Celebrations International  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*

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