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### Letters



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## Whitman salutes the fallen

BY TRACY SEELYE  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 01, 2011 03:21 PM



The oppressive humidity, abated only by a cooling breeze, didn't dampen the spirit of the crowd that turned out to honor Whitman's war dead during Memorial Day exercises Monday.

Prayers and salutes were included at each stop before and during the morning's parade which featured police and fire color guards, veterans' units, the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School Band, town officials and emergency vehicles.

The latter came in handy as a member of Whitman's Naval Sea Cadets passed out from the heat after a wreath-laying ceremony at the World War I Memorial Arch at the Fire-Rescue Station. He was treated for dehydration and released from Brockton Hospital.

"We remember the many brave men and women who have given their life through the history of our country, to protect us from danger and harm," said the new VFW Commander Joseph DeMarco in a prayer during a wreath ceremony at the World War II Memorial at Town Hall along the parade route. "Taps" and "Echo" were played by W-H band members Andrew Howard and Nicole Smith at each ceremony along the parade route.

DeMarco and DAV Commander Howard White laid the wreaths at memorials during the parade. During the morning's pre-parade ceremonies, veteran Donal Curtin of the DAV did the honors with DeMarco.

"The observance of Memorial Day reminds us of our rich history of American might and sacrifice by the men and women of our great state and country," said state Rep. Geoffrey Diehl in his remarks at Town Hall. "This is a day of reflection, honor and reverence and must be fittingly celebrated ... it is also a call to act, for this day is too great to be dependent on memory alone."

Artist Dennis Sullivan then presented a painting of the memorial to all services in Whitman Park to the Board of Selectmen. The day's events concluded at the memorial.

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- Custodian contract voided
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- Hanson reduces school assessment
- Hanson offers a patriotic salute on Memorial Day

### Whitman-Hanson

- Small fire breaks out at Pembroke High Thursday
- Hanson posts office hour changes
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- The Safety House is smokin'
- Duval students honor veterans
- Selectmen discuss trash fees
- Memorial Day events set to honor the fallen

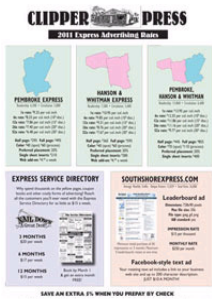
### Pembroke

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- A memorial Pembroke Memorial Day
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"When I started this painting I had no idea I would be standing in front of you folks today presenting this painting on behalf of all those who gave their lives for this the greatest nation on the face of the earth," an emotional Sullivan said recalling memories of coming to Whitman with his grandfather to see the parade on Memorial Day. "My feelings were expressed in this painting."

"I believe that this painting was painted with the emotion that you just expressed in your speech today," said Selectmen Dan Salvucci who accepted the painting on behalf of the town. "I heard it in your voice and I see it in the painting and I want to thank you very much and it will be prominently displayed in Town Hall."

Before the parade, the color guard representing the Sons of the American Legion and a ceremonial firing squad of veteran volunteers took part in six ceremonies at cemeteries and memorials around town.

At the World War I Arch, the prayers and wreath-laying were preceded by a recorded rendition of "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes.

From there, the parade made its way to Colebrook Cemetery where W-H student Miles Casey read "The Gettysburg Address" and wreaths were placed at the service memorial and the American Legion lot.

"It saddens me to be here, but we all have to take our time to mourn and this is one of them," White said before offering a prayer at Colebrook. "The people that died for our country are our true heroes — never forget them."

### Park salutes

At Whitman Park, the national anthem was played by the W-H band at the park flag pole before the parade proceeded to the Civil War memorial statue for a ceremony including the reading of General Logan's orders for the first Memorial Day, then called Decoration Day and to the memorial stone to all services where a final prayer and wreath ceremony were offered to conclude the day's events.

It was a day of salutes, floral tributes and rifle salutes to the nation's fallen

It took 51 years for his country to honor Army 1st Lt. John R. Fox with the Medal of Honor for his sacrifice of life for country during World War II, but Whitman saluted him with Memorial Day's first ceremonial rifle salute prior to Monday's parade.

Fox, a native of Cincinnati serving with the all-black 366th Infantry Division when he was killed in Sommocolonia, Italy on Dec. 26, 1944, never lived in Whitman. He was buried in Colebrook Cemetery in a plot belonging to the family of his widow Arlene Marrow of Brockton.

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Name (required)

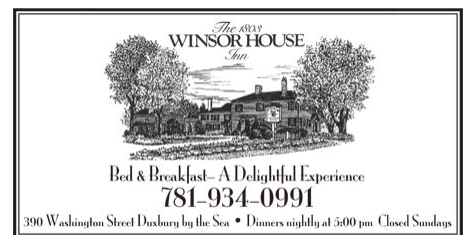
- Hearing on Pembroke dog attack
- Pembroke planning chair reacts to critique
- Pembroke Scout reaches for Eagle
- Pembroke selectmen wait on trash contract

## Sports

- Distance dominance powers boys into second
- Super sendoff for seniors as Lady Titans take second
- Girls lacrosse falls to Dover-Sherborn in prelims
- Blight, Wirzburger and Hickey heading to All States
- Baker and Brain advance; Newcomb and Mientkiewicz go out in style at D-II meet
- Lady Panthers fight hard in final match loss to Hingham
- Harbormen bounce boys lacrosse from playoffs for second time
- Panthers can't keep up with Mustangs in prelims
- Silver Lake bursts tournament bubble for baseball team in final game
- Girls LAX earns first tourney bid

## Obits

- Alice C. Lane, 89
- Patricia Adams, 69
- Violet J. Nicholson, 19
- David L. Jewers, 60
- Jean DiCicco, 77
- Alice M. Doherty, 69
- June L. Millett, 85
- Gerald M. Waylor, 65
- Frederick J. Halloran, 75
- William Ross Hardy, 80



## Comments

### Latest

Hanson reduces school assessment  
First all, let's get one thing straight and this is pretty simple. Neither the Selectmen n...  
06/03/11 11:50

Hanson reduces school assessment  
Maybe use the "FREE CASH" for a RAINEY DAY FUND? What happened to SUSTAINABLE???  
You want ...

06/03/11 06:13