City residents remember fallen, sacrifices at Memorial Day parade

Daniel Carson, **Reporter** Published 2:23 p.m. ET May 28, 2018

(Photo: Daniel Carson/The News-Messenger)

FREMONT - Hundreds gathered along Front Street to pay tribute to America's fallen military veterans Monday, as the city remembered those that paid the ultimate price with a Memorial Day parade.

Fremont VFW Post 2947's float featured a traveling wall with the names of all area service members who died in battle from the War of 1812 and the Civil War through World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Iraq War.

Political candidates, dance troupes and high school marching bands took to Front Street for the holiday parade as residents watched the procession in steamy conditions.

Stephan Carter and her sons, Reece, 14, and Ayden, 13, tried to find a little relief from the sun as they sat on a rock underneath a tree by the intersection of Hayes Avenue and Front Street.

"If we're in town, we always come," Carter said as she and her sons talked about the importance of Memorial Day and recognizing military members who gave all for the freedoms of Americans.

A representative from Fremont Baptist Temple's Cowboy Camp carries an American flag as she rides on horseback in Monday's Memorial Day parade in downtown Fremont. *(Photo: Daniel Carson/The News-Messenger)*

The holiday was established to honor U.S. military veterans who had died in service. Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971.

Parade spectators sit in front of Fremont's city hall Monday as they watch the city's annual Memorial Day parade along Front Street. *(Photo: Daniel Carson/The News-Messenger)*

John Cahill, Fremont Ross High School's new basketball coach, said he loved local history and thought the parade was a good way to honor fallen military veterans he didn't

know, like Union Gen. James McPherson and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Rodger Young, who died in World War II, as well as local soldiers he did know like Lance Cpl. Jeremy Shock.

McPherson died at the Battle of Atlanta in November 1864.

Young, who is buried at Clyde's McPherson Cemetery, was killed by Japanese fire in July 1943.

Shock was a Marine who died Nov. 19, 2006 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"These are people that gave the ultimate sacrifice which lets me come down and support the parade," Cahill said.

Wrestlers from Live Pro Wrestling Entertainment stand inside a mobile wrestling ring as it travels through downtown Fremont Monday in the city's Memorial Day parade. *(Photo: Daniel Carson/The News-Messenger)*

Fremont's Memorial Day parade was one of several in Sandusky and Ottawa counties Monday.

Oak Harbor hosted a parade led by the Benton-Carroll-Salem High School Band. The parade started on Church Street before gathering at Flat Iron Park for a brief ceremony.

The parade proceeded to the Bayou Bridge to honor veterans lost at sea, before finally reaching the Veterans Memorial Circle in Union Cemetery.

Clyde, Woodville and Bellevue also held their own Memorial Day parades.

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