

# *The Essex Community*

**Memorial Day Service  
&  
Candlelight Vigil**

**May 26, 2017**

***7:30 P.M. @ First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
8:30 P.M. @ Five Corners***

**The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
Memorial Day  
May 26, 2017**

Prelude

The Presentation of Colors      Color Guard, Essex Junction VFW Post 6689  
                                        Edward Daudlin, Commander

Musical Response to the Colors by the Men at First.....*Star Spangled Banner*

Procession of Grand Marshal's Family  
Mario Marcoux: United States Air Force in Vietnam

Welcome.....Devon Thomas

Call to Worship

Leader: Gracious and Loving God, we come from various backgrounds, lives and situations, but tonight we are united as one community.

**People: Tonight, we offer different expressions of faith, a wide variety of journeys and many local faith communities, but we are united in a faith that draws us to the Creator of life and beauty.**

Leader: We are united in our love of this great country. With all its foibles and faults, the United States of America is still a bright shining city on a hill offering help, encouraging freedom and standing up for justice and the rule of law.

**People: Tonight, we are united in our humility for and appreciation of the men and women that have offered their lives for the stability of our country, the freedom of its people and the highest ideals of the human spirit.**

Leader: Come, let us worship our God as we remember the very best of the divine spirit within our heroes. Come, let us sing in appreciation.

**Opening Hymn**

*O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

Bates

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat, across the wilderness!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine,  
Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years,  
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.

**Unison Prayer of Invocation and Lord's Prayer**

God of all nations, peoples and religions, come and join us tonight as we unite our hearts in memory of those whose lives have offered us the space for freedom, family and faith. May your divine presence shatter the walls of division between us and replace them with the cleansing light of God's love. Come into our minds, that your prophetic extravagance might transform our self-absorbed needs into a wider value of community. Allow your searing fire to burn the husks of protective defiance away and refine us to be worthy children of God. Come and be with us tonight and into the future as we continue to pray...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.

Scripture Reading.....The Prophetic Word of Jonah [page 667]

Presentation for Winners of Essay Contest

Presenting the Essay Contest Winners - Ed Von Sitas & Ed Daudlin  
Student Essay Readings by Elizabeth Messier and Sam Porter

Memorial Anthem by Men At First.....*When the Saints Go Marching In*

**Lest We Forget (Read in Unison).....Led by Edward Daudlin**  
**No one has ever been independent; everyone has leaned upon the past. Every liberty we enjoy has been bought at the cost of martyr's blood; every achievement of the race has been made at the cost of incredible toil. There is not a privilege nor an opportunity that modern society grants to us that is not the product of the labors of others. We drink every day from the wells that we have not dug; we warm by fires we have not kindled; we live by liberties we have not won; we are protected by institutions we have not settled. Our churches are built upon rocks that have been put in place by martyrs of the ages past. Our governments rest upon the foundations cemented in place by the blood of soldiers who tracked their way, barefoot, through icy battlefields or over burning sands. Our courts are reared upon the bodies of those who died for freedom. None of us lives to ourselves, all the past is invested in us.**

Introduction of 2017 Grand Marshal.....Ed Von Sitas

Grand Marshall Mario Marcoux [in Memoriam]

And the Presentation of Plaques and Colors

United States Flag presented to Mario Marcoux's family

Memorial Anthem by the Men at First.....*Memorial Day Medley*

Memorial Day Reflections..... Colonel Al Belluche  
Vermont Air National Guard

**Closing Hymn**

***My Country Tis of Thee***

**Smith**

**My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing; Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From every mountain side let freedom ring.**

**My native country, thee, land of the noble free,  
Thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills,  
Thy woods and templed hills; my heart with rapture thrills like that above.**

**Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees,  
Sweet freedom's song; Let mortal tongues awake,  
Let all that breathe partake; let rocks their silence break; the sound prolong.**

**Our father's God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing;  
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;  
Protect us by the might, Great God, our King. Amen.**

Final Words & Benediction.....Rev. Mark Mendes

Retiring of the Colors

We would like to thank the following people for making this service possible:

Greeters: VFW Post 6689: Tim Jerman and John Lajza

FCCEJ's Men at First: Directed by Bill Bickford, Jr.

Marie Johnson from FCCEJ is the organist for today's service

Rev. Mark Mendes from First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

Devon Thomas is a Member in Discernment at the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction as he seeks ordination in the United Church of Christ

Father Charlie Ranges from Holy Family/St. Lawrence Catholic Churches

Immediately after this service, everyone is invited to join us for the candlelight vigil at the Five Corners Veterans Memorial Park. The VFW volunteers will hand the candles out in the First Church parking lot, then we will all walk in procession to the Five Corners. At the Vigil, God Bless America will be sung in unison with the Men at First.

Following the service, everyone is invited to the  
VFW Open House, 73 Pearl Street, Essex Junction.

Thank you to the VFW members who assisted in this service.

### Former Grand Marshals

1986 Lt. Gov. Peter Smith  
1987  
1988 Lyle Nelson  
1989  
1990 Zane Snelling  
1991 Citizens of the Month: Giles Willey; Essex Rescue; Ruth Aldrich  
1992 Gold Star/wife Laurette Cook & Gold Star Mother Barbara Martin  
1993 WWII POW's: George Garceau, Raymond Harwood, Donald Couture  
1994 Jane McCauley, Peg Garland & Gladys Dunkling  
1995 Marvin Campbell  
1996 Reginald Cram  
1997 Ed Von Sitas  
1998 Willis Spaulding  
1999 Ernie Martin  
2000 Dick Murray  
2001 Ed Keenan  
2002 Harry Adams  
2003 Harold Bergeron  
2004 George Dunbar Jr.  
2005 Ed Bechtel  
2006 Gerald LaTulippe, Jeanne Beaulieu  
2007 Tom Blanchette, Hank Blanchette  
2008 Lyman Spinner, Harry (John) Kolinich, Richard Munsell  
2009 Robert Cilley, Richard Basiliere, Wes Prior  
2010 Jim Valla, Leo Knox, Jim Lane  
2011 Bob Marcotte, Fred Dirmaier, Ralph "Lefty" Gillette, Leo Nadeau  
2012 James Agan and Leonard Pilus  
2013 Stanley Spaulding and Bob Wheeler  
2014 George W. Bergin  
2015 James A. Spaulding & Gary D. King  
2016 Edward Daudlin, Pat Scheidel & Adam Stein

