Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance of those who have died in service of the United States of America. Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. In Penfield, we have a long history of our “Ceremony of Remembrance” to mark this special day. This year’s ceremony takes place on Monday, May 30 at 10:30 a.m. in Veterans’ Memorial Park at the Penfield Amphitheater & Kiwanis Stage behind the town hall. Our guest speaker will be Legislator George Hebert, a Penfield resident and US Navy Veteran. This program will feature the very popular and moving parade of roses. If you would like to recognize a family member, friend, or the women and men who serve our country, by carrying a rose up to the memorial please contact Sabrina Renner at 340-8651. We hope to see you there for this very special event.

Additionally, the Braman Post 1229 of the American Legion has been working on a very special project in Smith Cemetery on Gloria Drive. Post member Bill Kelley has lead an effort to identify all of the veterans buried in this historic cemetery. A headstone has been placed along with new pavers featuring engraved names of veterans and their branch of service. To date, 16 men and women who served our country have been identified at this cemetery. A remembrance bench has been added to allow visitors a place to sit while paying their respects. Post 1229 is currently looking at adding a flag pole to complete the project.

The Braman Post is inviting the Penfield community to join them on Monday, May 30 at 1:30 p.m. for the formal dedication of this very special site at Smith Cemetery to recognize those who have served our country so honorably. Smith Cemetery is located at 1850 Gloria Drive, just south of Sweets Corners Road in east Penfield. I hope you are able to join the members of Braman Post 1229 for this dedication.

I recently became aware of a resident who received a very special award: Buddhi Shrestha, D.D.S., PH.D. received the Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dental Programs. Dr. Shrestha has devoted himself to serving the community by improving the oral health of New York State residents, particularly that of children who are underserved. In 1963 Dr. Shrestha became the first person in Nepal to earn a dental degree. Upon completion of his dental education, he worked as a pediatric dentist at the Anthony L. Jordan Health Center in Rochester. It was there that his passion for improving access to oral health for children, especially underserved children, was born. Dr. Shrestha was the founding chair of the Rochester Regional Oral Health Coalition in 1999 and has played a key role in advocating for the passage of state laws for the licensure of dentists trained outside the US and for allowing the use of school space for health services including oral and mental health services.

During his long and illustrious career, Dr. Shrestha has consistently been a community-oriented practitioner, educator, researcher, administrator, and social change agent. His efforts have contributed to improve oral health both within New York State and beyond. Dr. Shrestha currently resides in Penfield with his wife Sheila. On behalf of the Town Board and the entire community of Penfield I would like to recognize Dr. Shrestha for this lifetime achievement award and to thank him for his service in community dental programs.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony

supervisor@penfield.org