The annual Penfield Memorial Day Ceremony of Remembrance and Parade of Roses is a moving program to remember and honor fallen heroes who sacrificed their lives to protect our freedoms and defend our country. Many residents joined in on a beautiful day at the amphitheater to stand with those families who have lost loved ones and share in their grief.

This year we were honored to have the American Heritage Girls Troop NY2911 lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, Penfield High School student Adriana Scalice beautifully sang our national anthem, and the Penfield Pops Band was on hand to play several inspiring pieces to honor our fallen men and women.

Commander Rich Gough and Adjutant Ken Andrews from the American Legion Braman Post 1229 shared a moving History of Penfield Soldiers. Our guest speaker was George Hebert, Penfield resident, Monroe County Legislator representing parts of Penfield and Webster, and retired Navy.

Essay contest winners, each of whom received a certificate of appreciation and a monetary award in memory of VFW Post 820, were all from sixth grade, Bay Trail Middle School: 1st place – Madelyn Graves; 2nd place Garrett Webster; and 3rd place Elizabeth Turley. Congratulations to the winners. We will soon post their essays on our website so you may read them.

I would like to recognize the following organizations and individuals for making the Ceremony of Remembrance so special: Boy Scout Troop 312 for the raising of the flag and for all the set-up and clean-up for this wonderful event; Broccoli’s Garden Center, 2755 Penfield Road, for all of the decorative flowers; the Rev. Michael McDonald of New Covenant Fellowship for the invocation and benediction; and Sabrina Renner of our Recreation Department who organizes this event each year.

In the afternoon there was a dedication ceremony for a new Veterans Memorial Garden at the Smith Pioneer Cemetery located on Gloria Drive. Members of the American Legion Braman Post 1229 designed and built a garden with a headstone and individual pavers engraved with the names of 16 men and women who are buried at this site dating back to the Civil War. I would like to recognize and thank Bill Kelley and all the members of the Braman Post 1229 for their efforts in making this Veterans Memorial Garden dream a reality. Once again, let this holiday remind us of our duty to support the men and women who selflessly served on the front lines to protect our freedom — their courage will not be forgotten!

I just received a letter from the Director of Environmental Services from the County of Monroe to share the results of the recent household hazardous waste collection event held in mid-April. An impressive 346 residents were served and a total of 9.2 tons of hazardous materials was collected and kept out of waste stream, storm and sanitary sewers, and landfills. This annual event makes a big difference in proper disposal of hazardous materials.

I also like to remind residents that Monroe County’s “ecopark,” located at 10 Avion Drive near the airport, is a year-round resource for disposal of unwanted materials. The facility is now open afternoons, evenings, and Saturdays for collections. For more information please go to http://www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark/.

We had a very successful music and food rodeo this past Friday to kick off the 2016 Penfield Amphitheater and Kiwanis Stage music series. The next event will be held on Monday, June 6 featuring the Penfield Pops Band starting at 7PM. Come enjoy the music of this wonderful community resource! Check out the complete 2016 season line-up.

Until next week, enjoy the warm weather. I hope to see you out and about our great community. Please stop me and say hello and let me know what you like best about Penfield and what opportunities we have to make it better!

Tony

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