



McFarland's Memorial Day Is a Parade Down Main St. and Few Missed It.

—State Journal Photos

McFarland Memorial Is Its Own, Sincere

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(Of The State Journal Staff)

McFARLAND — Memorial Day in McFarland is a day off from work and school.

It is a parade, flying flags, ceremonies at the high school, taps at cemeteries, and chicken barbecue.

McFarland's Memorial Day is much like celebrations in every community. First it is a solemn day honoring the dead from all of America's wars. Then it is a holiday.

"WE DO WELL to give pause today to remember the heart-break, the tragedy of war," the Rev. H. J. Rasmussen, pastor of McFarland Lutheran Church, said at the high school ceremonies.

There were no outside speakers, no outside units in the parade.

"This is all our celebration," Larry Hess, a past commander of the American Legion post, said.

"WE USED to have other people come to speak, and would bring marching units in from other places, but now we do everything ourselves and I think it means more to us," he said.

It was a fine parade and only a few of the village's 2,500 residents missed it.

Edwards Foy Post 534 of the American Legion organized the parade from the Lutheran Church, through downtown, to the high school.

Legionnaires led off with a color guard and firing squad, followed by the 70-member McFarland High School band under the direction of Thomas Dvorak.

Then came the scout units, 12

in all, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Junior and Senior Girl Scouts, Brownies, and Cadettes.

Villagers followed the last units to the high school on the edge of town and assembled in front of a speaking stand, war memorial, and wreaths.

"WE DO NOT mean to glorify war," Pastor Rasmussen said, "but we cannot become soft. It is fashionable now to say war accomplishes nothing, but what would this world be today if Hitler had been allowed to have his way."

Others speaking at the brief ceremony were Village Pres. Leland Bullen, Legion Cmdr. Robert Black, Girl and Boy State representatives, Marie Ransley, Rick Hale, and George Parish.

Mrs. Mary Hess, president of the Legion Auxiliary, presented

a wreath to McFarland's Gold Star mother, Mrs. Marietta Kampmeier, who lost her son in World War II.

McFARLAND is lucky. While its young men have fought in every war, it has not lost a soldier since World War II.

After placing the flag at half staff legionnaires fired a three-volley salute to the nation's fallen heroes.

Short memorial ceremonies were then held at Brandt Park, and in the village's two cemeteries, but most of the crowd remained at the school.

The solemn business of Memorial Day was over and the Lions Club's barbecued chicken was ready to be served.

Later in the afternoon the High School Band presented a concert.