

Morgantown WV Observes New Day in Honor of Nation's Heroes

Moment of Silence on Sunday, May 18 preludes Public Procession & Prayer Service.

May 18, 2014 is Morgantown's 3rd Gene Vance Jr. Day, a new day occurring annually in Morgantown during the time the nation celebrates Armed Forces Week.

Framed by Memorial Day and Armed Forces Day, it honors the legacy of the new American warrior returning home from the longest war in US history, remembers the fallen and supports the wounded in memory of Morgantown's own national war hero, Gene A. Vance Jr.

Vance, a native West Virginian and WVU alumni, was a highly skilled and decorated U.S. Special Forces (Airborne) Cryptologic Linguist citizen soldier. A proud member of the West Virginia Army National Guard who was killed in action on May 18 while leading the hunt for Bin Laden in Afghanistan in 2002.

He is credited for saving the lives of 2 fellow Americans and more than 18 Afghani soldiers .

The day symbolizes the United States of America's leadership of the boldest global fight against terrorism in its history, one being waged daily for twelve years by brave men and women in uniform. It was created to generate greater awareness for the critical work and challenges facing US Armed Forces leading the Global War on Terror .

Morgantown is best known as the home of West Virginia University. In 2012, leadership representatives from the State of West Virginia, City of Morgantown, West Virginia Army National Guard, West Virginia University, The Gene Vance Jr. Foundation, businesses, groups and media together with the public at large proclaimed May 18 as Gene Vance Jr. Day.

It falls on US Armed Forces Day 2014. All Americans and their allies worldwide are invited to observe a moment of silence at 1100h (11 AM EST) Sunday May 18th, 2014 in observance of the day.

"There'll be a Public Procession, a ride from Camp Dawson to the City of Morgantown's East Oak Grove Cemetery, where a Public Observance and Prayer Service will be held from 1300h to 13h15m," says Michael M J Minc, founder of the day.

Minc is Vance's brother-in-law, Founder and Chairman of the Gene Vance Jr. Foundation for Catastrophically Injured War Veterans - a privately funded world class non- profit, all volunteer organization that is leading an unprecedented nationwide health care initiative dedicated to supporting military medicine's efforts to advance medical science and help increase quality of life for the severely wounded.

What should people do to observe the day and show support for our Armed Forces during the month of May?

- Go to www.facebook.com/GeneVanceJrDay and show your support.
- Go to www.genevancejr.org and volunteer and/or donate to contribute.
- Publicize Information, posters and other materials on the worldwide web, in your media and/or elsewhere.
- Volunteer to work with the wounded or other military servicemen and women.
- Various educational activities that teach children about the armed forces and sacrifices made throughout history.
- Public or private:
 - Flag ceremonies and other 'themed' events.
 - Moments of Prayer, Silence and Gratitude.
 - Speeches and addresses in honor.



Office of the Mayor

The City of Morgantown

389 Spruce Street
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505
(304) 284-7439

Proclamation

- Whereas,** The 3rd Annual Gene Vance Jr. Day will be observed in Morgantown, WV on the 18th Day of May and celebrated on the 25th Day of October 2014 in honor and support of the brave service members of the United States Armed Forces leading Overseas Contingency Operations previously known as the Global War on Terror: Those who boldly serve, those who have fallen, and those who have been traumatically injured while safeguarding the nation; and
- Whereas,** The 3rd annual day recognizes the United States of America's leadership of the longest armed global conflict in its history in memory of SSGT Gene A. Vance Jr.'s heroic and selfless actions in the US response to events of 9/11, as the first National Guardsman to be killed in direct action since Vietnam and the first WV National Guardsman to die in direct action since WWII; and
- Whereas,** The 3rd annual day symbolizes honor, care, hope and healing for thousands of returning as well as severely wounded veterans, their allies, respective families and communities facing challenges never experienced before in history; and
- Whereas,** The remarkable sacrifices and commitment members of the Armed Forces make to and for this nation and unyielding dedication of the Gene Vance Jr. Foundation for the Catastrophically Injured are worthy of recognition and, it is fitting therefore that Vance, the foundation in his honor and all the servicemen and servicewomen be honored today, and every day.

Now therefore, I, Jenny Selin, Mayor of the City of Morgantown, West Virginia do hereby proclaim the 18th day of May 2014 as

Gene Vance Jr. Day

In the City of Morgantown and encourage all citizens to join in remembrance and appreciation of the brave members of the Armed Forces of the United States -who have served, and who continue to serve-in order to protect our freedoms.

Seal:

Jenny Selin, Mayor

Tribute to Heroes



2014

Morgantown's Third

GENE VANCE JR. DAY™

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR A LIFETIME OF FREEDOM

The 3rd ANNUAL GENE VANCE Jr. DAY MORGANTOWN WV OBSERVANCES in honor and support of the brave service members of the United States Armed Forces leading the Global War on Terror: those who boldly serve, those who have fallen, and those who have been traumatically injured while safeguarding our nation in the longest war in its history.

11.00 am to 11.45 am



Official Observance
Global Moment of Silence

CAMP DAWSON*
101 Army Road
Kingwood WV, 26537

* Military Base - Not a public venue

12.00 pm to 12.45 pm

Public Procession

RIDE FROM CAMP DAWSON
through City of Morgantown to
EAST OAK GROVE CEMETERY



THE CITY OF
MORGANTOWN
WEST VIRGINIA

1.00 pm to 1.15 pm

Public Observance

Prayer Service Pastor Dan Meadows

EAST OAK GROVE CEMETERY
1291 Dorsey Ave.
Morgantown WV, 26501

Patriot Guard Riders

Please spread the word. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** Demonstrate your support for our troops.

The Gene Vance Jr. Foundation for The Catastrophically Injured is an **all volunteer organization.**

Since 2005, **100% of available funding** goes to program expenses that grow and facilitate advances in medical restorative frontiers for our men and women in uniform.



DONATE TODAY

to help a severely wounded soldier

www.genevancejr.org



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