



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Flags of Honor Display Coming to Powell for Memorial Day

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Powell, OH: The City of Powell will have a special addition to its Memorial Day celebration this year.

Along with the annual Memorial Day parade, which begins at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 31, and the program that follows at Village Green Park, this year's celebration will feature the Ohio Flags of Honor display. The flags will be placed in an area near the Greater Powell Veterans Memorial at Village Green Park on Saturday, May 29, and will be on display until Monday afternoon.

The Ohio Flags of Honor display consists of more than 550 American flags. More than 200 are dedicated to Ohio's men and women who have given their lives fighting the War on Terrorism. These flags are surrounded by "tribute flags" that have been sponsored by veterans' organizations and individual and corporate sponsors.

Each 3-foot-by-5-foot flag is mounted on a 10-foot pole, creating a moving and visually impressive display. The public is encouraged to walk among the flags and pay their respect to Ohio's fallen. The display will be accessible around the clock, with local Boy Scouts from Troop 428 watching over the flags.

The Ohio Flags of Honor display got its start in May, 2004, when Gino and Lisa Zimmer, parents of Specialist Nicholas E. Zimmer, U.S. Army, were notified on Memorial Day that their son had been killed in Kufa, Iraq. After their loss and with the gratitude the Zimmers felt for the support of veterans' motorcycle clubs and organizations that attended their son's funeral, the Operation Iraqi Freedom Chopper Fund (OIFCF), a nonprofit 501c3 organization, was established.

In September 2005, U.S. Marines from Ohio's Lima Company 3rd Battalion/25th regiment returned from Iraq. Lima Company suffered heavy losses during its eight-month assignment, and 16 of 22 killed in action were Ohio Marines. As a way to honor those who served and remember those who were lost, members of a local American Legion Post made plans to set up an "Avenue of Flags" at Rickenbacker Field near Columbus. The display was well received, and many asked how the memorial could tour Ohio for others to see. The OIFCF was contacted by organizers of the flag display, and on Oct. 15, 2005, the OIFCF became Ohio Flags of Honor.

To learn more about the flag display, visit www.ohioflagsofhonor.org.