

Petals of Memory

As a young farm boy, he had never bought flowers – he did pick a few for his Momma on Mother's Day.

As a soldier and young husband he thought it would be a good idea to buy flowers for his new wife. He loved her and did not want to leave her. And she did not want to see him go. At least he could leave her with some flowers to keep his memory fresh.

They stayed up late the night before his departure. He left early the next day to join his unit, leaving the flowers by her chair as a surprise, to greet her in the morning light.

She cried when she saw them; roses, her favorite. They spoke love to her and she knew he was thinking of her now, just as she was thinking of him and his long, long journey over unfriendly waters.

She knew his journey was important. She knew he was sacrificing his safe life for her security. She knew he was suspending their new life together for the hope of a longer life of freedom and safety for their unborn children and the future of their community. She knew he had to go.

The flowers were faded and pressed into a book by the time she got word. He was not coming home.

The long journey had been cut short by an enemy torpedo. "All had perished" read the official words.

Peace secured. His sacrifice honored – hers continues. The roses now long dried are pretty still, the memories are sweet and as lasting as the rose petals.

~ Anonymous



CAPE CANAVERAL NATIONAL CEMETERY

2016 MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE *with Special Honors to the Military Spouse and Family*



*"To care for him who shall have borne the battle
and for his widow, and his orphan."*

~ Abraham Lincoln

Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865

mlw-ccnsc-05302016

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery

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cem.va.gov

The Support Committee at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery is not affiliated with the Department of Defense or any Military Service.

CAPE CANAVERAL NATIONAL CEMETERY

**MAY 30, 2016
2:30 p.m.**

HONORING THE MILITARY FAMILY

Spouses in Particular



Unless you have experienced frequent moves, family separations and countless temporary lodgings in unfamiliar lands and locations, you may not understand why we pause to honor the military spouses and families in attendance at today's Memorial Day observation.

Of course, it is not only inconvenience or temporary, substandard life experiences that qualify the veteran's families for recognition. Few, outside of the veterans themselves, are asked to sacrifice as much for our Nation as those who support our men and women in uniform.

Ask the child of a career service member where "home" is and you will begin to understand the level of sacrifice—most of them require a paragraph or a long geographic list to answer what most of us are able to do with a one-word response.

We pause today to say "thank you" to the wives, husbands and families of our Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard members; both military and Department of Defense civilians.

We have a commemorative lapel ribbon for the wives and husbands who yet carry the title of "Dependent Spouse." May you sense the gratitude of a thankful nation as you wear this symbol of our appreciation.

This event is provided and sponsored by the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery and the all-volunteer Support Committee at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

"We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."

*- James A. Garfield
May 30, 1868 Arlington National Cemetery*

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CAPE CANAVERAL NATIONAL CEMETERY

Master of Ceremonies/Opening Remarks	J.B. Kump USAF (Ret.), Pastor, Great Outdoors Community Church
Invocation	Chaplain?? title
Presentation of Colors	Patrick Air Force Base Honor Guard
National Anthem	Patti Eastwood
Pledge of Allegiance	Lead by Jim Carleton USMC (Ret.)
Reading of Poem	Don George Vietnam Veteran
Introduction of Distinguished Guests	J.B. Kump
Remarks	Don Murphy Director, Cape Canaveral National Cemetery
Guest Speaker	Wayne Ivey?? or Nelson Brevard County Sheriff
Keynote Speaker	Brig. Gen. Wayne R. Monteith Commander of the 45th Space Wing
Rifle Salute	Vietnam Veterans and All Veterans of Brevard
National Moment of Remembrance [TAPS]	CPT Philip Stiles U.S. Army Reserve
Closing Remarks	J.B. Kump
Patriotic Music	Astronaut/Titusville Combined Brass Ensemble
Amazing Grace	Bag Piper???

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