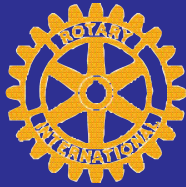


# Rotary



Rotary Club of Homewood  
P.O. Box 19333 • Birmingham, AL 35219

## Keynotes

Meeting: Thursdays, 12 Noon, Homewood Library

May 25, 2017

Website: [www.homewoodrotaryal.com](http://www.homewoodrotaryal.com)



### THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER: John Martin, United Way Vice President of Campaign



John Martin is an Atlanta native and an Auburn grad. He has worked for the United Way of Central Alabama since 2012. His current position is the Vice President of Annual Campaign. His department maintains United Way's corporate relationships and oversees the annual workplace campaign fundraising efforts. John is active in the Birmingham Sunrise Rotary Club. He is also a founding member and President of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Birmingham.



**MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE - MONDAY, MAY 29, 2017**



Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day.

Regardless of the exact date or location of its origins, one thing is clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).

It is now observed in almost every state on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 – 363). This helped ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays, though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina; and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

*More on next page.....*

## RED POPPIES AND MEMORIAL DAY



In 1915, inspired by the poem “In Flanders Fields,” Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

*We cherish too, the Poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor led,  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies.*

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael. When she returned to France she made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children’s League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help.

Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans’ organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their “Buddy” Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948 the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

In 2014, as part of the WWI Centenary, the United Kingdom commissioned artist Paul Cummins to fill the moat of the Tower of London with ceramic poppies, titled “Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red.” Throughout the summer, the moat was filled with poppies, eventually totaling 888,246 ceramic poppies, to symbolize the number of British casualties in the conflict.

The poppies were sold to the citizens for £25 each and net proceeds which exceeded £15 million, were shared equally among six military charities: Confederation of Service Charities (COBSEO), Combat Stress, Coming Home, Help for Heroes, The Royal British Legion and SSAFA.



Photos by Walter Mathis  
May 17, 2017 Meeting



# Rotary



## Youth Service Month MAY 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu   | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|
|     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4<br>SPEAKER:<br>Dr. Weily Soong<br>AL Allergy &<br>Asthma          | 5   | 6   |
| 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11<br>SPEAKER:<br>Rod Marshall<br>CEO-AI Bapt<br>Children's<br>Home | 12  | 13  |
| 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18<br>SPEAKER:<br>Rep. David<br>Faulkner, AL<br>Legislature         | 19  | 20  |
| 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25<br>SPEAKER:<br>John Martin, VP<br>of Campaign,<br>United Way     | 26  | 27  |
| 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |   |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |   |     |     |

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