

## Telling stories keep memories alive

June 7, 2023



Relating stories keeps the memories alive for those who died in combat.

That was the theme in recognizing Memorial Day 2023 in Del Norte County. Post 1381 Commander Dave Cooper led the somber services at the Crescent City cemetery, this Memorial Day.

“We are gathered to recall persons who have made the supreme sacrifice...and to honor their families,” Cooper said. “Thus, our deeds speak better than words. While they are physically gone, we remember them.

Telling their story continues to honor those who've passed."

In reality, they are very close to us, said Commander Cooper.

The theme of remembering and relating stories of these heroes continued throughout the morning services. An invocation and prayer was delivered by Chaplain Glenn Turner. Scott Rogers touched the audience with his narration of "In Flanders Field where poppies grow," and the Honorable Judge Robert F. Cochran sang "In Flanders Field."

Guest speaker was Veterans Service Officer Ramsey Williamson, who underscored the theme of remembrance when he addressed the audience, "...to live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

Retired Crescent City Police Chief Doug Plack read the list of 44 names of Del Norte individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in service to the United States of America.

A special tribute was given to entertainer/centenarian Bob Hope who would have been 120 on his birthday May 29. Judge Cochran related his military experience listening to Hope on a USO tour, decades back.

The telling and re-telling of experiences survivors share keeps our heroes even closer to us.

Commander Cooper said, "they are definitely part of our thinking and actions. We feel they have molded the future of our nation."

Cooper then directed the honor guard to conduct the 21-Gun Salute, followed by the Taps trumpet, which concluded the Memorial Day services in Crescent City.