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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER SUPPORT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FT. LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Army general leads the charge in tradition dating back to Civil War era

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Brig. Gen. Mark Spindler, U.S. Army Military Police School commandant, is scheduled to be a guest speaker during the 2014 Memorial Day Ceremony that begins at 1 p.m., Monday at the Fort Leonard Wood Veterans Cemetery located at 25350 Highway H in Waynesville, Mo.

Spindler plans to deliver a message in honor of 42 million American men and women who have served their country in time of war; and more than 1.2 million American veterans who secured the blessings of liberty with their lives.

“It is both our responsibility and privilege to come together as a nation and reflect on our country’s legacy this Memorial Day,” Spindler said. “Ceremonies such as this remind us that in the Profession of Arms, we cannot attend to the future unless we understand and embrace the past.”

The origins of Memorial Day date back to May 5, 1868, more than three years after the Civil War ended, when Gen. John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, officially proclaimed Memorial Day as a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation’s service.

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Spindler will be joined by Waynesville City Mayor Luge Hardman, retired Sgt. Walter Dixon, former prisoner of war, Charles Baxter, cemetery director, and members of the local community during this year's Memorial Day observance, which is open to the public.

The Missouri Veterans Cemetery at Fort Leonard Wood was formally dedicated on September 13, 2010, and is the fifth operational state Veterans cemetery in the state of Missouri. The cemetery property was donated by the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood and is situated on 229 beautiful acres.

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Photos for this release are available online at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/fortleonardwood/sets/72157644819150823/>

About Fort Leonard Wood

Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains 80-90,000 military and civilians each year.

Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only five reception stations in the Army, and the Army's largest Non Commissioned Officers Academy.

Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.

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