

Dear Editor,

On behalf of my colleagues on the Hillsdale Town Board, I want to extend my thanks to everyone in Hillsdale for pulling together to make Memorial Day 2016 a particularly special.

In Hillsdale, our Memorial Day parade passes three distinctive memorials to our veterans. No landmarks are as precious as those where the names of our service men and women are inscribed. Inspired by their service, our whole community thanks them for their contribution and example of what it means to be a good citizen.

Jim MacArthur and his fellow veterans at VFW Post 7552 Cadby-Shutts partnered with us to start the parade by marking the centennial rededication of Hillsdale's historic Flag Bearer monument. We are also grateful that Commander Gerald Roberts and our neighbor Helen Hall laid the wreath on the Civil War monument.

The Hillsdale Fire Company was a generous host for the post-parade festivities. We consider ourselves fortunate to have this dedicated team looking out for us and we're grateful for everything they do make our Town safe and "a community."

We also want to extend thanks to the Hillsdale Highway Department, led by Superintendent Richard Briggs. These gentlemen are as committed to making Hillsdale safe and beautiful as anyone we know. Not only did they decorate all 28 feet of the Flag Bearer monument, they always go the extra mile.

Vic Amendola, our colleague who helps maintain Town Hall and the Roe Jan Park, also decorated Town Hall with as much patriotic bunting as it could hold. And it never looked better.

Thanks also to our Deputy Sheriff David Proper and his team at the Columbia County Sheriff Sub-Station. They monitored traffic and helped the centennial celebration and parade go off without a hitch. We're grateful for their presence in our community every day.

A Big thank you to our local businesses and residents on Main Street who made their properties look spectacularly patriotic.

Finally, thank you to those who had a direct hand in the festivities – Robina Ward, TJ Russell, Jeff Paige, Dave Ashley, Bill Sullivan, Rev. Mary Langley, Meg Mettler Wormley, Rusty Elster, Jay Rohrlisch, and Lewis Cleale.

We know that none of these folks expects our thanks. They're just good citizens and want to be proud of their Town. And though Memorial Day is one of the most solemn of occasions, we celebrated with music, poetry, laughter, and grateful hearts.

Peter Cipkowski

Hillsdale Town Supervisor

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