

**May 27, 2024: Members of VFW Post 5744, its Honor Guard, local Boy Scouts, Firefighters, the Marshwood High School band, other veterans, and local citizens gathered in the South Berwick Town Hall auditorium for Memorial Day observances.**



Commander Jeff Chase (left) offered welcoming comments and noted that “We are gathered to honor those men and women who have given so much so we may have the freedoms which we enjoy today.”

The South Berwick Fire Department Honor Guard (right) posted the colors at the start of the ceremony and retired the colors at the conclusion of the program.



VFW  
Chaplain  
“Pastor”  
Bruce

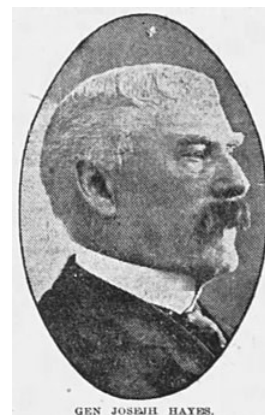
Brown (left) offered an opening invocation and concluding prayer.

Local Boy and Girl Scouts came forward and led everyone in the “Pledge of Allegiance”. The Marshwood High School Band, directed by David Graichen, then played the “National Anthem” and other patriotic songs.



Jeff introduced the distinguished guests present: Town Manager – Tim Pellerin, Town Council Chairman of the Board – Mallory Cook, Town Council Members – John James, Jeff Minihan, Jessica Cyr, and Melissa Costella, State Senator – Mark Lawrence, State Representative – Tiffany Roberts, and local Girl and Boy Scout Troops.

Jeff then read a synopsis of the career of General Joseph Hayes of South Berwick. General Hayes was one of 25 South Berwick citizens who are known to have fought at Gettysburg. General Hayes eventually became this town's most decorated soldier. General Hayes' tombstone is in the middle of the historic Old Fields Burying Ground on Vine Street in South Berwick. [Photo of General Joseph Hayes in old age, from his obituary in *The Boston Globe* (August 20, 1912).]



Jeff completed a Ceremonial Muster Call for those Post members who died within the past year; Hank Hansen rang a bell after each name was called. These included Richard Normandin (U.S. Navy), Ray Brunelle (U.S. Army), and Jerry Schumacher (U.S. Army).

Mal Kenney laid a wreath at the Cleary-Collier Park Memorial, which honors James Cleary (U.S. Army) and Raymond Collier (U.S. Army) who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. This memorial is also known as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.







The VFW Honor Guard, comprised of Brent Roets, Mike Murray and Roger Guptill, fired a three-volley gun salute in honor of our fallen comrades.

Marshwood High School trumpeters Patrick Graichen and Ozzie Gilbert played “Taps” and an “echo”.



Over 100 civilians and veterans were in attendance.



Joyce St. Pierre and Pastor Bruce Brown



Alton Smith (ret. USCG)



Brunelle Bailey (Ret. USAF) and Bruce Brown



Bobbi Beaver (former State Representative) and Floyd Beaver (USAF)



Debbie Zagroski, Sally-Ann Kenney, Zelda Kenney, Jaye Gorham, Mary Hussey