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Honor Guard**
Jim Hanley, Commander

HENDERSON VETERANS
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.
300 First Street, Henderson, KY 42420
www.HendersonVeteransMemorialFoundation.org

Sponsored By

In Memory of Colonel Jim Smith
Sunrise Tool & Die, Inc. - Darrell & Lorna Littrell
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ATA Advisory - Mac, Brian & Kris
Henderson Elks Lodge No. 206
WSON Radio 860 AM - 96.5 FM
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Owensboro Health
Henderson Healthplex
Beverage Barn

**Special thanks to all of those who
made this event possible:**

Patty and Jama Hanley
American Legion Post No. 40 Honor Guard
City of Henderson
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North Middle School
Henderson Moose Lodge No. 732
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Eastgate Sureway
Daughters of the American Revolution
Henderson County Jail
City of Henderson Parks Department
Henderson County Fiscal Court
Excel Machine Shop
Henderson County High Soccer Team

**NEVER
FORGET**



Memorial Day

Monday, May 25, 2026
10:00 a.m. - Central Park



Order of Events

Master of Ceremonies:

Lt. Colonel Heather Crooks - USAF, Retired

Invocation:

Rev. Mike Spivey
Zion Baptist Church

Presentation of Colors:

HCHS Junior ROTC & Rizpah Legion of Honor

National Anthem:

Leslie Hoskins

Pledge of Allegiance:

Assembly led by
Tracy Crooks Toews

Wreath Placement:

United States Army: Donald Banks

United States Marine Corps: Michael Hanley

United States Navy: Wayne Hargis

United States Air Force: Paul Berberich

U.S. Space Force: Darrell Wright

U.S. Coast Guard: Jeff Oliver

Featured Speaker:

Maj. Josh Pitcher - Kentucky National Guard

Musical Selections:

Henderson County High School Band

Vocal Selections:

Kelly Turley & Leslie Hoskins

Benediction:

Rev. Mike Spivey, Zion Baptist Church

Rifle Salute:

Henderson American Legion Post 40 Honor Guard

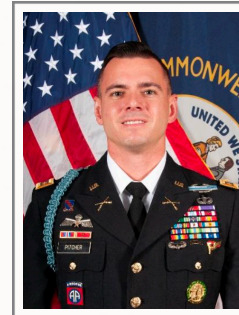
Taps:

Henderson County High School Band

MAJOR JOSH PITCHER - KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD

Major Josh Pitcher currently serves at the Aide-de-Camp, Office of the Adjutant General Kentucky National Guard, previously served as a Platoon Leader for the Commander's Personal Security Detail for HHC 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 82nd Airborne Division.

He deployed to southern Afghanistan in the Kandahar Province in January 2012 and participated in Operation Enduring Freedom as a platoon leader in Delta Company, 2-508. While on a dismounted combat patrol during a major clearance operation of a Taliban command and control compound,



Pitcher becoming wounded by an improvised explosive device.

Pitcher subsequently underwent thirteen months of intense rehabilitation at Walter Reed Military Medical Center before rejoining the 4th BCT in May 2013.

In November 2013, Pitcher redeployed with Bravo Company, 2-508 PIR to Afghanistan's Regional Command-North in Balkh Province.

Pitcher represented the U.S. Army at the 2014 NATO Summit and was one of four Army Infantry Officers selected to attend the rigorous United States Marine Corps Expeditionary Warfare School where he graduated with honors on the Commandant's Roll.

Missing Man Honors Ceremony

• As you entered the park, you may have noticed a special table; it is reserved to honor those who are missing.

• Set for six, the empty chairs represent Americans who were or are missing from each of the services – Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and civilians, all with us in spirit.

• Some here were very young, or not yet born, when the Vietnam War began; however, all Americans should never forget the brave men and women who answered our nation's call and served the cause of freedom in a special way.

• Let me explain the meaning of this table, and then join me for a moment of silent prayer. The table is round – to show our everlasting concern.

• The cloth is white – symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to serve.

• The single red rose reminds us of the lives of these Americans... and their loved ones and

friends who keep the faith, while seeking answers.

• The yellow ribbon symbolizes our continued uncertainty, hope for their return and determination to account for them.

• A slice of lemon reminds us of their bitter fate, captured and missing in a foreign land.

• A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears of our missing and their families – who long for answers after decades of uncertainty.

• The lighted candle reflects our hope for their return – alive or dead.

• The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain us and those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

• The glass is inverted – to symbolize their inability to share a toast.

• The chairs are empty – they are missing.

