

# Belmont marks Memorial Day

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By GAIL OBER, LACONIA DAILY SUN

BELMONT — After marching with the American Legion from the Middle School to the Belmont Memorial near the Tioga River, New Hampshire National Guard Lieutenant Colonel Roy Hunter urged those in attendance to remember the real meaning of Memorial Day.

He said that those who died in armed service from 1775 until today are our brothers and fathers, sisters and mothers, friends, neighbors and co-workers who lead ordinary lives until they lost them in war.

"They were called to arms for a higher purpose. For liberty, justice, equality and freedom from tyranny to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country," he said.

He urged people to remember that our freedoms come at a high price and that Memorial Day is not just another day off.

He also asked people to remember U.S. Army Corporal Scott Diamond of Franklin who died just outside of Kandahar in 2008 and who served as a member of his command. "Freedom comes at a very high price," he said choking back tears.

Belmont's ceremony lasted just over an hour and began at the middle school and wound its way down Main Street to the monument near the Tioga River.

Led by a four-person color guard of Belmont Police Officers, the parade included a number of veterans who marched or rode, the Boy Scouts who laid a wreath at the monument and the Girl Scouts who threw flowers into the Tioga to remember those who died.

The Belmont High School band played patriotic songs and the rear was brought up by members of the Belmont Fire and Rescue Department.

The color guard fired a three-gun salute and Woody Fogg and Howard Brown raised the flag at the memorial.

At the end of the ceremony, everyone joined hands and sang "God Bless America" as a member of the Belmont High School chorus lead them in song.





Led by veterans from the American Legion, Belmont's Memorial Day parade heads down Main Street Monday. (Gail Ober/Laconia Daily Sun)





A Belmont family wears patriotic colors as they wait for the parade to pass by. (Gail Ober/Laconia Daily Sun)



Members of the American Legion surround the empty chair the town keeps to honor those who are missing in action. (Gail Ober/Laconia Daily Sun)





Steve Bracey of the American Legion was the master of ceremonies in Belmont on Memorial Day. (Gail Ober/Laconia Daily Sun)





Girls Scouts throw flowers into the Tioga River to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in war. (Gail Ober/Laconia Daily Sun)





Lt. Col. Roy Hunter IV of the New Hampshire National Guard delivers his keynote speech at the Memorial Day service in Belmont. (Gail Ober/Laconia Daily Sun)

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