

# Patriots' Day Initiative



Dear Patriots' Day Ambassador,

In 1961 John F. Kennedy boldly said, during his inaugural speech, "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." This is my sentiment exactly. Stated over fifty years ago, this message still holds true. This is the "pay it forward" attitude that motivated my mission to have Patriots' Day marked as an official state holiday.

The idea for Patriots' Day in Connecticut was suggested by Senator Joe Markley and Representative Rob Sampson while we sipped coffee at a local Wolcott Diner. Then, Mrs. Wolcott America 2016, I had the goal to spark more patriotism in the hearts of local citizens while embracing our American Heritage. Bill-1002 was presented at the Hartford Capitol in fall of 2016 and by July 10, 2017 Patriots' Day became an official (unpaid) holiday in the state of Connecticut. We now join 4 other states Maine, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, North Dakota who already celebrate with pride.

Patriots' Day is celebrated the 3rd Monday in April, and marks the historic Battle of Lexington and Concord, April 19, 1775. Known as "The Shot Heard Round the World", as Poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote; it was the first battle that started the American Revolutionary War, paving our path to freedom.

This is your opportunity to honor your country; to unite your community and spark more patriotism in the hearts of citizens within your area.

I have attached a celebratory outline along with information that has been successful in the Town of Wolcott since 2016. This is just an example. It is my hope that you use this as a guide to create your own special Patriots' Day Ceremony.

I may be reached to answer any questions or help guide you with your upcoming celebration. Please be sure to post any photos or acknowledgments from your event on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Patriots-Day-in-Connecticut> or forward any photos/info to me at [patriotsdayct@aol.com](mailto:patriotsdayct@aol.com). Please feel free to share our website link: [www.Observepatriotsday.org](http://www.Observepatriotsday.org).

Thanks a million!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacy Perrone-Petta".

Stacy Perrone-Petta

Patriots' Day Ambassador

## **Patriots' Day Mission:**

To Celebrate Patriots' Day across Connecticut, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every April, in a continuous effort to spark patriotism in the hearts of citizens; while honoring and educating about American History.

## **Basic Outline for Ceremony**

- National Anthem and/or Invocation
- Mayor/Local Representative(s) Speak
- Why we celebrate Patriots' Day
- Local Historian or Rep. from Local Historical Society Speaks
- Awards/citations given to local Veteran(s), Serviceman or Servicewoman
- Photos & Refreshment

**Note:** It is best to ask for nomination letters in advance for the Patriots' Day Awards and assign a judging committee to select your winner(s). Please see the article below that was printed in our local newspaper and also sent to area VFW and American Legion Posts for help in nominating deserving recipients. Feel free to use this as a template to great your own article or letter to distribute.

## **Article Printed in Wolcott Community News for February & March Patriots' Day 2019**

Wolcott will officially celebrate Patriots' Day [on Monday, April 16th](#). A ceremony is planned at the Wolcott Town Hall [at 10am](#) to honor local Veterans and celebrate our American Heritage. Patriots' Day marks the Battle of Lexington and Concord which started the American Revolution, paving our path to freedom. The ceremony is open to the public and participation is encouraged for all ages. Mrs. Wolcott America 2018, Stacy Perrone-Petta will host the event with Mayor Thomas Dunn and Representative Rob Sampson. The event will also include a special music presentation and awards ceremony.

Nomination letters are now being accepted to help with the selection of this year's honorees. Please consider nominating a local Veteran, Serviceman or Servicewoman either living or deceased. Share with us how this person has been heroic in serving our country. Please send all letters and correspondence by or before March 21<sup>st</sup> to the attention of Stacy Perrone-Petta: The Patriots' Day Initiative 20 Ridgecrest Drive Wolcott CT or you may also email to: [patriotsdayct@aol.com](mailto:patriotsdayct@aol.com). Thank you for your support!