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MAY 11 2020

Town of Bristol

AMERICAN LEGION POST #19

56 Airport Drive, P.O. Box 292  
Bristol, Vermont 05443

May 9, 2020

Town of Bristol Selectboard

RE: Memorial Day Ceremony

Selectboard Members:

I have listen to your discussion on the approval/disapproval of this year's Annual Memorial Day Ceremony, and I am surprised not at your decision but at your questioning of my integrity on whether or not I would hold this annual event for our community regardless.

I telephonically requested the use of the park for the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony. I was called and asked some questions about it. One question was what do you do at this ceremony. I bit my tongue and said nothing derogatory, and I said we have speeches, play patriotic music and place a wreath at the Memorial, lasting maybe 30 minutes. I was asked how many attend. I said we have had upwards to 200 in the past. I really never counted.

With Mount Abraham not in session, no band is available so I said there would not be a parade, just the ceremony on the park

I did say I would make the decision to go forward or cancel the ceremony around May 1. We do not have the large logistical issues that Vergennes and Middlebury have, and I said I could cancel this ceremony one week prior to.

For those of you that do not know me, I am not only the local Legion Commander, but also the State Legion Commander. I have canceled all traveling in the state, canceled all of our programs for this year and told all state officers down to individual Legions that all officers will stay in position for one more year as we cannot meet to hold elections and installations.

Just like you, I have been taking my guidance from the Governor and his staff to guide me in my decisions. Now I ask you, do you think I would hold this ceremony in contradiction to the Governor's guidelines? You have bigger problems to resolve in our town than to spend as much time as you did wondering whether or not Ron LaRose will hold a Memorial Day Ceremony on our park.

This ceremony is facilitated by Post 19 for this community and for you. There are many families in our community that have lost loved ones in protecting our freedoms, and this is what this day is all about.



RONALD L. LAROSE  
Commander Post 19