

MARTINSVILLE BULLETIN

Speaker: Remember U.S. vets in all lands

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By DOUGLAS HAIRSTON - Bulletin Staff Writer

On Memorial Day, Americans' minds and hearts usually turn to private and community burial sites for veterans, as well as the more celebrated sites such as the Arlington and Gettysburg national cemeteries.

But one World War II veteran, the Rev. Theo Marsh, suggested on Memorial Day Monday that the nation should not forget its veterans who are buried overseas.

According to a Web site, there are 106,957 U.S. military personnel buried in 22 U.S. military cemeteries in Europe.

There also are four other military cemeteries overseas, it stated: in Manila, Philippines; Carthage, Tunisia; Mexico City, Mexico; and Panama City, Panama.

Marsh addressed the 19th annual Memorial Day service at Carver Memorial Gardens, where about 150 people came out to honor the nation's veterans -- living and dead.

A five battle-star decorated soldier, Marsh saw action in some of the most celebrated battles of World War II as a truck driver and cook, including the Normandy invasion and the Battle of the Bulge.

His European tour also took him to one of the nation's foreign national cemeteries, Flanders Field Cemetery in France, he said, a place he first learned of through a poem in grade school.

So as the nation remembers its veterans whose final resting place is in their homeland, Americans should not forget those U.S. soldiers who lie in the foreign soil which they fought to protect, Marsh suggested.

Other highlights of the service included rousing renditions of the national anthem and the Battle Hymn of the Republic by Charlotte Young, associate minister of High Ridge Baptist Church, and selections by the Magna Vista High School Band, under the direction of Fred Lewis.

The Fieldale-Collinsville High School JROTC fired a three-gun salute.

Several elected officials were also on hand, including state Sen. Roscoe Reynolds, Henry County Sheriff H. Frank Cassell and Henry County School Board members

Curtis Millner and Tom Martin.