Memorial Day celebrations held

Georgetown American Legion Post 114 and the Georgetown Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6444

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Tom Gillespie, a veteran Marine fighter pilot gives the keynote speech.

Knights of Columbus color guard was present.

The Georgetown American Legion Post 114 and the Georgetown Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6444 conducted a Memorial Day ceremony today at Francis Marion Park on Front Street.

A crowd of over 100 witnessed the annual event intend to remember service men and women who died during service to their country.

The service began with a presentation of the colors by an Honor Guard from the Knights of Columbus Assembly 3272 of Georgetown and Pawleys Island, commanded by Phil Brice.

Councilman Paige Sawyer, a member of both the American Legion and VFW posts led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by an invocation presented by Paul Forbes, Chaplain, VFW Post 6444.

The National Anthem was beautifully sung a'cappela by Miss Dillon Moore of Georgetown.

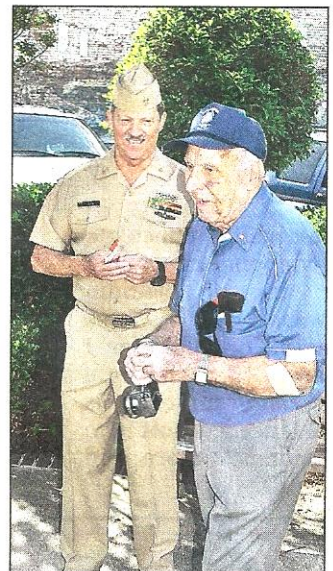Master of Ceremonies Martin Alfonsi,

Post Adjutant of the American Legion, read the traditional "General Orders from May 1868" which commanded that Memorial Day be celebrated annually by military and veterans posts on May 30th. (On June 1968 the "Uniform Monday Holiday Act" changed the date of the holiday to the last Monday in May.)

Mayor Jack Scoville recited Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" that was followed by the guest speaker, Tom Gillespie of Georgetown.

Tom Gillespie spoke about growing up in a military family during World War II and his experiences as jet pilot.

The solemn wreath laying ceremony was performed by Rodney Ward, Commander, American Legion Post 114 and John Livingston, Commander, VFW Post 6444.

Taps was played and colors were retired ending the program.

Veteran Jerry Lee was honored at the ceremony.

— From Martin Alfonsi