



Fred Malone, left, rings a bell Sunday afternoon as part of a Memorial Day ceremony in Uptown Greenwood. At right is Dan Grubbs, chaplain for American Legion Post 20.



A flag representing U.S. prisoners of war and those missing in action adorns a table set to symbolize their absence during a Sunday afternoon Memorial Day ceremony at the Uptown Greenwood veterans museum.



An American-flag draped casket and military cross sits in the lobby of Uptown Greenwood's veterans museum.

# A remembrance



PHOTOS BY ADAM BENSON INDEX-JOURNAL

A small but somber group attended Sunday afternoon's Memorial Day ceremony at Uptown Greenwood's veterans museum — taking a moment to pray and reflect upon those who gave their lives in service to the nation.

## Greenwood honors fallen war dead

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Greenwood's American Legion Post 20 hosted a somber Memorial Day commemoration on Sunday at the veterans museum, drawing a small but grateful crowd that gathered to honor the nation's fallen military men and women.

While the practice of decorating

the graves of soldiers traces back to antiquity, its origins as an annual American custom trace back to the 1860s.

Fred Malone, a Purple Heart recipient who joined the Air Force in 1954, presided over a traditional bell-ringing ceremony in which names of Greenwood County's war dead were read.

Malone still carries a piece of

mortar in his arm from an injury he sustained while serving in Vietnam. An estimated 1.2 million people have died in support of U.S. military operations since the Revolutionary War.

And, Malone said on Sunday, their voices still carry.

"If you listen quietly, you can still hear them. You remember their voices from conversations you had before they gave their last measure

of devotion to this nation and, even if you're not a Gold Star family member, a battle buddy or friend or relative of a fallen hero, all you have to do is look around you and you will see their legacy," he said. "It is us."

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