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**Just the Facts** Lourdine Florek, Owner  
**Wednesday, May 31, 2017**  
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**Totheroh touches on personal, national in keynote speech**

A recent personal experience provided a new take on an old tradition for Monday's keynote speaker at Hoopeston's Memorial Day service.

On March 1, Beth Totheroh's father, Gary Gillens, died. At his burial, as Totheroh looked on, the honor guard performed the 21-gun salute for her dad. In Monday's speech, she called what that act "significant."

Totheroh outlined the history of Memorial Day. "It's an old holiday," she said. Although loved ones have decorated graves for years, Decoration Day - a day set aside to remember those who died in military service to their country - was started in 1868.

"It was not created for backyard barbeques or to kick off the summer season," Totheroh said. Instead, it is a day to pay "honor and homage to those who gave their lives for freedom."

The willingness of the Armed Forces to serve has "earned our eternal gratitude," said Totheroh, calling America "absolutely the best country in the world."

No matter what one's political inclinations are, "we're obligated to join forces and honor those who have served." Veterans and those currently serving deserve respect, attention and gratitude, she added.

While honoring the "sacrificial service" of those who gave all, Totheroh said everyone needs to identify how he or she can personally serve the country and community, urging all to "be strong and courageous."

She ended her speech quoting John F. Kennedy's 1961 inaugural address: "whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us here the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you."

**Weather**

Mostly sunny today. High 71. Tonight, clear. Low 51. Tomorrow, sunny, chance of storms late. High 75, low 62.

With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

**Obituaries**

**DAVID** - Dennis Duane David, 80, of South Bend, Ind., formerly of Hoopeston, died Friday, May 26, 2017 in South Bend. Visitation will be held 6-8 p.m. CST Wednesday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Funeral will be at 11 a.m. CST Thursday at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Danville National Cemetery with military rites by Danville American Legion post. Memorials are suggested to Presence Cancer Care, 806 N. Logan Ave., Danville IL 61832.

**DOWNHOUR** - Nettey Hollen Downhour, 102, died May 27, 2017 in Evansville, Ind. A social gathering of family and friends will be held from 1-2:30 p.m. Friday at Wellington United Methodist Church. Graveside memorial service will be at 3 p.m. in Floral Hill Cemetery.

**Classifieds**

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*Photos by James Eyrich*

### ***A day of remembrance***

Residents of all ages turned out Monday for Hoopeston's annual Memorial Day service at Floral Hill Cemetery. Clockwise, from top left, Kirsten Chase, four-year-old daughter of Dr. Daniel and Jessica Chase, is moved by the music of Hoopeston Area High School's band; Beth Totheroh gives the keynote speech; the Hoopeston American Legion/VFW Honor Guard does the 21-gun salute; it wouldn't be a Memorial Day service without train traffic, but this CSX engine flies a flag in honor of the day; Hoopeston Area High School choir sings the "Star Spangled Banner" as band members look on.