

Best of the Best Memorial Day Parade



Each year, Rockford, Illinois holds an annual Memorial Day Parade. People of all ages and diverse backgrounds join together in unity to honor and remember the veterans who have served our country proudly. We remembered the veterans and heroes that walk among us and those that returned home to live out their lives under a blanket of freedom they helped create. We also gave thanks to the many soldiers that died on foreign soil.

For the Rockford Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 28th of 2012, we wanted to pay homage by carrying folded American flags to honor the veterans and their families that we have served. Families who chose Fitzgerald Funeral Home for the care of their beloved veteran were contacted by our staff. Each family was asked to have the flag that was presented to them by our country carried in the parade by the local Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois. The Parade Banner was proudly carried by the parents of a local fallen soldier.

At 9:00 a.m., the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts gathered at a meeting point and were given the American flag of a deceased soldier. Walking in unison, the boys and girls honored over 40 veterans by holding the American Flag displaying the veteran's name. Each flag represented an individual, although they served in various wars, their common bond was the colors of the red, white and blue.

As I walked the parade with the Scouts, through the cheering and clapping, I heard many comments and witnessed great respect from the crowds about this beautiful tribute. There were parents explaining to their children the significance of the flags, family members saying "Look, there's Dad's flag!", police officers and military personnel standing to salute as we walked by. One spectator who was interviewed by the local news stated "My favorite part of the parade was watching the kids carry the flags."

Following the event, we had each of the scouts personally sign a thank-you card and mailed it to the veteran family with a photo of the scout holding their flag.

Thank you, Patrick Fitzgerald, for the creative and thoughtful idea. It was an incredible experience!

Brenda Perrone Fitzgerald Funeral Home & Crematory