

Mayoral Proclamation

- WHEREAS, The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was founded by Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson, in Decatur, Illinois on April 6, 1866, on the principles of “Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty;” and
- WHEREAS, Membership in the GAR was limited to honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps or the Revenue Cutter Service who had served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865. The community level organization was called a “Post” and each was numbered consecutively within a state-centered division called a “Department;” and
- WHEREAS, In 1868, Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan issued General Order No. 11 calling for all Departments and Posts to set aside the 30th of May as a day for remembering the sacrifices of fallen comrades, thereby beginning the celebration of Memorial Day; and
- WHEREAS, The official body of the Department was the annual Encampment, which was presided over by the elected Department Commander, Senior and Junior Vice Commanders and the Council. Encampments were elaborate multi-day events which often included camping out, formal dinners and memorial events; and
- WHEREAS, The GAR founded soldiers’ homes, was active in relief work and in pension legislation; and
- WHEREAS, The final Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was held in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1949 and the last member, Albert Woolson, died in 1956 at the age of 109 years;

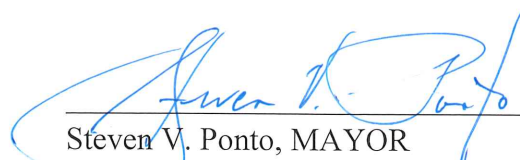
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven V. Ponto, Mayor of the City of Brookfield, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2016, as

GAR 150th Anniversary Day

in the City of Brookfield and I commend this observance to all of our citizens.

Signed and sealed this 1st day of May,
in the year Two Thousand and Sixteen.





Steven V. Ponto, MAYOR
City of Brookfield