



MEDIA ADVISORY/REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

May 21, 2024

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PITTSBURGH MERCY INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES PARTICIPANTS HONOR VETERANS, DECORATE GRAVES WITH U.S. FLAGS FOR MEMORIAL DAY

WHAT: In preparation for [Memorial Day](#), a U.S. tradition practiced since the Civil War once known as Decoration Day and a federal holiday since 1971, volunteers from [Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Services](#) will decorate the graves of military veterans of all wars with U.S. flags to honor them for their service and sacrifice to our nation. The group has volunteered for this important community service activity for nearly a decade. [Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Services](#) serves more than 700 adults who have intellectual disabilities and their families/caregivers annually, making it one of the largest IDD service providers in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

WHO: Adults participants and volunteers in Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Services' day support and residential programs.

WHEN: **Wednesday, May 22, 2024, from 10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

WHERE: [Allegheny Cemetery Soldiers' Memorial Plot \(Section 34\)](#)
4734 Butler Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201 (Lawrenceville)
Established in 1844, [Allegheny Cemetery](#) is the final resting place of more than 14,000 U.S. veterans, including eight Civil War generals. It hosts one of the largest and longest-running Memorial Day observances in the nation. The Soldier's Memorial Plot honors veterans of all wars and overlooks the Civil War National Cemetery. For more information, visit www.alleghenycemetery.com.

WHY: For more than three decades, [Marlene Scholze](#), a Pittsburgh Mercy colleague who serves adults who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, has volunteered to place U.S. flags on the graves of veterans at [Allegheny Cemetery](#). Marlene organizes this activity annually to give individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to volunteer, to show their appreciation for veterans who have given their lives in service to our nation, and participate in a meaningful community service activity.

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