



May 1, 2020

5:30pm

NMSU Spiritual Center

You are cordially invited to participate in Aggie Memorial Day on Friday May 1, 2020. The official Aggie Memorial Ceremony will take place at 5:30pm at the NMSU Spiritual Center and will feature a special speaker and concludes with the reading of the names of NMSU students, employees, and alumni who have passed away since April 15, 2019.

Background:

In May 2013 the Office of the Dean of Students coordinated the first Aggie Memorial Service to honor students who had passed away during the academic school year. Since that time over 51 students, 25 employees, and 1,100+ alumni have been recognized at a simple but reverent ceremony. Traditionally held in early May before finals, the program features families and friends of those being honored, a guest speaker and concludes with the reading of names and ringing of a memorial bell. The activity has been coordinated by the Office of the Dean of Students, NMSU Police and Fire, and is held in the NMSU Spiritual Center and is generally attended by student's family members, police and fire officials, and interested faculty and staff.

Proposed Update:

In the spirit of LEADS 2025 Goal 4 "Build a Robust University System" and our state's cultural heritage, the planning committee has recommended that we enhance the Aggie Memorial to serve as a "celebration of life" day of activities across the NMSU system. Specifically the committee is moving forward with the following improvements, shifting the focus from a 20 minute ceremony/reading of names to a more comprehensive system-wide Aggie Memorial Day. We envision a day that includes activities across the system, on each campus in which students, families, employees, and alumni can come together to celebrate being an Aggie and honor those (students, employees and alumni) who have passed during the year.

The committee has identified the following activities for this year:

- **Adoption of May 1st as Aggie Memorial Day ~ A Celebration of Aggie Camaraderie and Life.**
To ensure that this honorable activity becomes an official NMSU tradition, the identification of a consistent date will allow each campus, college, department, and/or unit to embrace the Aggie spirit, honor Aggies who have past, and include NMSU students, employees, families and friends in whatever who hold NMSU so dear.
- **Creation of an Aggie Memorial Coin** – A special coin is being created and will be presented to each family representing a current student being honored, the coin represents the difference that student made at NMSU and recognition of their place in the Aggie family.
- **Campus Memorial Day Thought Cards** – Blank note cards will be available at tables across campus for campus community members to write a short thought or prayer to the families of each student being honored on Aggie Memorial Day May 1, 2020. The cards will be bundled and given to each family.

- **Aggie Memorial Reflection Display** – Families or friends of students being honored will be allowed to set up a reflection display in Corbett Center. The Aggie Memorial reflection display will allow families an opportunity to display personal items, photographs, or things that reflect on their loved ones life and celebrate who they were, what they did, and how they touched the lives of those around them.
- **Aggie Family Hosts Program** - Students will be assigned to honored student families attending Aggie Memorial Day activities with additional support the day of and evening of the memorial ceremony. This may include accompanying them on a campus tour, hosting them for lunch, or helping them with set-up of reflections displays.

Coordination Team:

In an effort to enhance this campus tradition that celebrates the lives of Aggies past and present, the planning committee includes the Office of the Dean of Students, Campus Activities, NMSU Fire Department, NMSU Police Department, and has been expanded to include ASNMSU representation, NMSU Foundation & Alumni Association, Corbett Center, MarComm, and Human Resources.



On May 1st, we would like to encourage each campus, college, department, unit and student organization to consider doing something unique (i.e. breakfast, lunch, group attendance at a ball game, social media story) to share in celebrating the lives of NMSU Aggies past and present across the globe.

Go Aggies!