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DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

A veteran helped place flags on Boston Common on Wednesday to honor fallen military members from Mass.

By **Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF MAY 22, 2015

One hundred twenty-four US servicemen and women from Massachusetts have died in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq since the wars began in 2001 and 2003,

respectively.

They will undoubtedly be remembered, honored, and missed this Memorial Day, and most other days, in local communities across the state.

The fallen military members hailed from 93 different towns and cities — from Pittsfield to Boston; from Salisbury to Fall River and the Cape, according to a Globe review of data collected and compiled by the authoritative website icasualties.org.

They ranged in age from 19 to 52. Their median age was 25.

About half of the service members who died, 67 of them, served in the Army, and 30 more were Marines. Others belonged to the Air Force, the Navy, the National Guard, and the Reserves. An additional Massachusetts casualty served in the CIA.

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Date of death	Name	Age	Home town	Unit	Military branch	Rank	DOB	Cause of death	Place of death	Posthumous
02/03/07	Hendrick, Daniel M.	38	Chelsea	Company B, 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Air Cavalry Division, 1st Air Cavalry Division	U.S. Army	Sergeant	01/24/69	IED explosion	Kabul, Afghanistan	None
02/10/07	Harbath, Jr., Joseph A.	38	Bridgewater	Company E, 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Air Cavalry Division	U.S. Army	Sergeant	01/24/69	IED explosion	Kabul, Afghanistan	None
02/20/07	Hobbes, Thomas L.	38	Weymouth	Company B, 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Air Cavalry Division	U.S. Army	Lieutenant Colonel	01/24/69	IED explosion	Kabul, Afghanistan	None
02/20/07	Hobbes, Thomas L.	38	Weymouth	Company B, 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Air Cavalry Division	U.S. Army	Lieutenant Colonel	01/24/69	IED explosion	Kabul, Afghanistan	None
02/20/07	Hobbes, Thomas L.	38	Weymouth	Company B, 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Air Cavalry Division	U.S. Army	Lieutenant Colonel	01/24/69	IED explosion	Kabul, Afghanistan	None
02/20/07	Hobbes, Thomas L.	38	Weymouth	Company B, 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Air Cavalry Division	U.S. Army	Lieutenant Colonel	01/24/69	IED explosion	Kabul, Afghanistan	None
02/20/07	Hobbes, Thomas L.	38	Weymouth	Company B, 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Air Cavalry Division	U.S. Army	Lieutenant Colonel	01/24/69	IED explosion	Kabul, Afghanistan	None
02/20/07	Hobbes, Thomas L.	38	Weymouth	Company B, 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Air Cavalry Division	U.S. Army	Lieutenant Colonel	01/24/69	IED explosion	Kabul, Afghanistan	None
02/20/07	Hobbes, Thomas L.	38	Weymouth	Company B, 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Air Cavalry Division	U.S. Army	Lieutenant Colonel	01/24/69	IED explosion	Kabul, Afghanistan	None
02/20/07	Hobbes, Thomas L.	38	Weymouth	Company B, 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Air Cavalry Division	U.S. Army	Lieutenant Colonel	01/24/69	IED explosion	Kabul, Afghanistan	None

Fallen military members from Mass.

The toll from the wars peaked for Massachusetts in 2007, when 21 troops died. The casualties have slowed since then, but have not stopped. There has been at least one death every year since 2001, including this year.

Forty-eight military members died in Operation Enduring Freedom, also known as the war in Afghanistan, which formally concluded at the end of 2014. However, roughly 10,000 US troops remain in the country for the follow-up mission called Operation Freedom's Sentinel, which the Department of Defense has said is intended to provide assistance to Afghan security forces and to continue the United States' "counterterrorism mission against the remnants of Al Qaeda."

Seventy-seven military members died in Operation Iraqi Freedom, also known as the Iraq War, which formally concluded at the end of 2011. However, as in Afghanistan, US forces have remained — some 3,000 Americans — in the country, including ongoing US intervention there to fight the Islamic State extremist group.

Troops from Massachusetts have also suffered injuries during the wars. During Operation Enduring Freedom, 192 were wounded, while 483 were wounded during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Altogether, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have claimed the lives of 6,806 American troops, and another 40,263 have been wounded.

California lost 730 military members, the most of any state in the country, followed by 603 in Texas, 347 in Florida, and 294 in New York. Massachusetts' 124 military fatalities is the 20th highest nationwide.

A significant number of American civilians working as private military contractors in both wars have also been injured and have died.

Since 2001, 1,620 civilian contractors from the United States have died in Iraq and another 1,592 contractors have died in Afghanistan, according to the [Department of Labor](#). Tens of thousands of other contractors have been injured, including 32,122 who have lost four or more days of work due to injury.

Massachusetts hometowns of U.S. service members who died in Iraq, Afghanistan wars

NONE REPORTED 1 2 3 4 5+

SOURCE: icasualties.org

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