



JOHN J. TECKLENBURG  
MAYOR

*City of Charleston*  
*South Carolina*

OFFICE OF  
COMMUNICATIONS

**\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\***

**For Release: May 4, 2018**

## **Decoration Day Ceremony to Take Place in Hampton Park**

*Charleston, S.C.*—Please join Mayor John Tecklenburg and History Commission member and Virginia College professor of history Damon Fordham for a ceremony in recognition of Decoration Day, which many believe was our country's first Memorial Day, at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, 2018. The ceremony will include remarks by Mayor Tecklenburg and Professor Fordham and an unveiling of an improved historical marker in Hampton Park, the site of the first Decoration Day.

Decoration Day was first observed in Charleston on May 1, 1865 when nearly 10,000 former slaves marched onto the grounds of the Washington Race Course, where a prison camp had been established, to honor the lives of hundreds of Union soldiers who had died there during the Civil War.

- WHO:** Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg  
Damon Fordham, History Commission member
- WHAT:** Decoration Day ceremony
- WHERE:** Decoration Day historical marker, north end of Hampton Park (Mary Murray Drive near 10th Avenue)
- WHEN:** 1 p.m., Saturday, May 5, 2018
- MEDIA CONTACT:** Jack O'Toole, Director of Communications  
Media Relations/Public Information  
(843) 518-3228  
[otoolej@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:otoolej@charleston-sc.gov)

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