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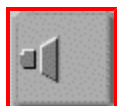


Happy

Memorial Day



Celebrated
in May on the
last Monday.



[CLICK HERE to hear vocal Memorial Story read by Mauri Gandy.](#)

For quality sound turn off music

Memorial Day a legal holiday, observed annually on the last Monday in May in most of the United States, in honor of the nation's armed services personnel killed in wartime. The holiday, originally called Decoration Day, is traditionally marked by parades, memorial speeches and ceremonies, and the decoration of graves with flowers and flags, hence the original name. Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868, on the [order of General John Alexander Logan](#) for the purpose of decorating the graves of the American [Civil War](#) dead. It was observed on May 30 until 1971, when most states changed to a newly established federal schedule of holiday observance. Confederate Memorial Day, formerly a legal holiday in many southern states, is still observed on the fourth Monday in April in Alabama, the last Monday in April in Mississippi, and April 26 in Florida and Georgia.

MAKE A FAMILY MEMORY

On this Memorial Weekend take a moment to gather the family around the computer and share this Memorial page together.

Most of us get so busy with the holiday and preparing for the barbeques, picnics, going to the beach or lake... that we forget that this day became a Holiday so that we would take time out to REMEMBER those special men and women who gave their lives so that our families can live in a FREE country.

As you share this page and read the stories, poems and see the pictures, take the time to share stories that you remember of friends and family that died in a War. This is a great time to tell about a grandfather who fought in World War II, a great grandfather who served in World War I or maybe a great great great grandfather who fought in the Civil War.



How do you have a Memorial Service for a loved one who has died?

You can visit their Grave and take some fresh flowers

Look at old pictures and share your thoughts and memories with loved ones and friends

A Memorial may take the form of a statue, monument, building, or park.



[We Remember! Visit Memorial Day in CyberSpace and get your candle!](#)

Memorial Day Flag Etiquette



Flags are used to decorate the graves on Memorial Day.

When flying the flag, it should be flown at half-staff until noon.

More information can be found at:

[US Flag Code \(36 US Code 10\)](#)



[Click Here to listen to Memorial Day story](#)

read by Jennifer Burnell, Jamie, Jonathan and J. Craig Gandy

For quality sound turn off music.

**Why do we celebrate Memorial Day and Veterans Day?
Aren't they the same thing?**

Memorial Day honors the American Military who have died in their service
for the country.

Veterans Day: Is to appreciate all who have served their country both
alive and dead.

The Army describes the two holidays at this page: [~US Army Page~](#)

What is the purpose of Memorial Day?

"Logan instructed Army installations to decorate graves and conduct special services as circumstances permitted. The general wrote the celebration

had two purposes, other than honoring war undivided republic, and to renew our nation's pledge to assist the soldier's and sailor widows and orphans."

~From US Army Page~

Memorial Day, also called Decoration Day, is a patriotic holiday in the United States. It is a day to honor Americans who gave their lives for their country. Originally, Memorial Day honored military personnel who died in the [Civil War](#) (1861-1865). The holiday now also honors those who died in any war while serving the United States.

Memorial Day is a legal holiday in most states. Most Northern States and some Southern States observe Memorial Day the last Monday in May. This date was made a federal holiday by a law that became effective in 1971. Most of the Southern States also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates the last Monday in April as Confederate Memorial Day. Alabama celebrates on the fourth Monday in April. Georgia observes this holiday on April 26. North Carolina and South Carolina celebrate it on May 10. Virginia observes the holiday on the last Monday in May. Louisiana observes it on June 3, and Tennessee has a holiday called Confederate Decoration Day on that date. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day on January 19.

Observance. On Memorial Day, people place flowers and flags on the graves of military personnel. Many organizations, including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and fraternal groups, march in military parades and take part in special programs. These programs often include the reading of [Abraham Lincoln's](#) - "Gettysburg Address". Memorials are often dedicated on this day. Military exercises and special programs are held at Gettysburg National Military Park and at the [National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia](#). In addition, to honor those who died at sea, some United States ports organize ceremonies in which miniature ships filled with flowers are set afloat on the water.

Since the end of World War I, Memorial Day has also been [Poppy Day](#). Volunteers sell small, red artificial poppies in order to help disabled

veterans. In recent years, the custom has grown in most families to decorate the graves of loved ones on Memorial Day.

History. Several communities claim to have originated Memorial Day. But in 1966, the U.S. government proclaimed Waterloo, New York, the birthplace of the holiday. The people of Waterloo first observed Memorial Day on May 5, 1866, to honor soldiers killed in the Civil War. Businesses were closed, and people decorated soldiers' graves and flew flags at half-mast.

Major General John A. Logan in 1868 named May 30 as a special day for honoring the graves of Union soldiers. Logan served as commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War. They had charge of Memorial Day celebrations in the Northern States for many years. The American Legion took over this duty after World War I.



Vocal Memorial Prayer

Read by Brad Burnell

for quality sound turn off music

A Memorial Day Prayer

Eternal God,
Creator of years, of centuries,
Lord of whatever is beyond time,
Maker of all species and master of all history --
How shall we speak to you
from our smallness and inconsequence?
Except that you have called us to worship you
in spirit and in truth;
You have dignified us with loves and loyalties;
You have lifted us up with your lovingkindnesses.
Therefore we are bold to come before you without groveling
(though we sometimes feel that low)
and without fear

(thought we are often anxious).
We sing with spirit and pray with courage
because you have dignified us;
You have redeemed us from the aimlessness
of things' going meaninglessly well.
God, lift the hearts of those
for whom this holiday is not just diversion,
but painful memory and continued deprivation.
Bless those whose dear ones have died
needlessly, wastefully (as it seems)
in accident or misadventure.
We remember with compassion those who have died
serving their countries
in the futility of combat.
There is none of us but must come to bereavement and separation,
when all the answers we are offered
fail the question death asks of each of us.
We believe that you will provide for us
as others have been provided with the fulfillment of
"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."



[CLICK HERE to hear pomes read by Mauri Gandy.](#)
[For quality sound turn off music.](#)

Memorial Day Poetry

Eulogy for a Veteran

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the Gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the mornings hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight,
I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there, I did not die.

Author Unknown



War Memories (1941) by J.E.Miles

Silently waiting for their Captains command,
these brave fighting soldiers of second brigand.
There goes the order, they repeat the shout,
"Over the top men, everyone out!"

Into the thick of it, a cry of dismay,

for many are wounded in this bloody fray.
Battle after battle, takes place all around,
then suddenly it is silent we don't hear a sound.

The battle is over, the victory is complete,
and the remainder of the enemy surrender in defeat.
But what of the dead comrades who died so in vain,
and the wounded soldiers suffering in pain.

The burial squad set forth upon its given task,
such a price to pay for victory, "Is it right,"
we ask? No music nor glory accompanies this chore,
In search of fallen buddies, victims of war.



Freedom Is Not Free

I watched the flag pass by one day.
It fluttered in the breeze
A young Marine saluted it, and then
He stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud
With hair cut square and eyes alert
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought, how many men like him
Had fallen through the years?
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mothers' tears?
How many Pilots' planes shot down?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
No, Freedom is not free.

I heard the sound of taps one night,
When everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times
That taps had meant "Amen"
When a flag had draped a coffin
of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard
at the bottom of the sea
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, Freedom isn't free!!

Author Unknown



God Bless America

"... from these honored dead, we take increased devotion to that cause
for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we
here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain..."



~Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address~

Click to hear 2 1/2 minute vocal



[Story "Taps on Memorial Day"](#)



by [J. Craig Gandy](#)

To read more about the song ["Taps" Click Here](#)



~ Memorials and Casualty Files ~



-  [African-American Civil War Memorial](#)
-  [Air Force Memorial Foundation](#)
-  [Arlington National Cemetery](#)
-  [Gulf War Veterans Memorial](#)(Personal Home Page)
-  [Names on the Wall](#)
-  [Tomb of the Unknowns](#)
-  [USS Arizona Memorial](#)
-  [U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation](#)
-  [Vietnam Veterans Memorials Around The World](#)
-  [Vietnam War Memorial by K 3/1](#)
-  [Vietnam Women's Memorial Project](#)
-  [Korean War Veterans Memorial](#)



~ MIA/POW ~





[PoW/MIA Forum ®](#)



["Operation Just Cause"adopt a MIA/POW](#)



[Vietnam-Era Prisoner-Of-War/Missing-In-Action Datatbase](#)



[Canadian POW-MIA](#)



~ Memorial Day Messages ~



[Air Force leaders send Memorial Day Message](#)



[PRAYER FOR PEACE, MEMORIAL DAY, 1997](#)



~ Memorial Day Pages~



[Memorial Day in Cyberspace](#)



["A Day of Remembrance" by The American legion](#)



[Memorial Day by Annie](#)



[Memorial Day Poem](#)



[Memorial Day by Davis Virtual Market](#)



[What I'll be doing for Memorial Day by James E. Leiker](#)



[Remembrance-Reflections, Memories, Images of Vietnam Past](#)



[Memorial Day by Billie](#)



[Memorial Day](#)



~ The Wars ~



[Revolutionary War \(1775-1783\)](#)

-  [War of 1812 \(1812-1814\)](#)
-  [American Civil War \(1861-1865\)](#)
-  [Spanish American War \(1898\)](#)
-  [World War I \(1914-1918\)](#)
-  [World War II \(1939-1945\)](#)
-  [Korean War \(1950-1953\)](#)
-  [Vietnam War \(1961-1975\)](#)
-  [Gulf War Chronicles \(1995\)](#)


This Memorial page was in the May Issue of:
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From the beaches of Normandy to Iwo Jima, Korea, Vietnam and Kuwait, millions of American men and women risked death or lost their lives during the great wars of the 20th century. Their sacrifice and unwavering pursuit of freedom has not been forgotten.

"Greater love has no one than this,
than to lay down his life for his friends."
John 15:13

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[Civil War](#) [Unknown Soldier](#) [Taps](#) [President Matching Game](#) [President Trivia Quiz](#)



since May 27, 1998

This page was last updated on Monday, May 2, 2005.

Vocal Sounds were added May 28, 2000

Graphics for this page provided by one or more of the many donor graphic artists at

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