



Freedom's Feast MEMORIAL DAY

On-line resources to get the most out of your AMERICAN holiday Celebrations.

A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR ALL FOR OTHERS

Reader: On this day of remembrance, Memorial Day, we recall all the men and women who died in military service to our nation.

Reader: Since the War of Independence in 1776, more than **1.2 million Americans** have served **and died** to protect our freedoms.*

Reader: During this weekend with family and friends, we enjoy the ways this holiday marks the beginning of summer. We are grateful for family, the freedom we have to relax, shop, travel, share meals and be with friends and neighbors.

Reader: These "little freedoms" are part of our everyday lives. We have bigger ones too: the freedoms of speech, religion, and protest.

Reader: On this day we remember that others gave their lives to protect the liberty we love.

Reader: We know that some of our families are changed forever because of the loss of a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife or other loved one. We cannot bring these patriots back but we can honor their memory. We can acknowledge their dedication and sacrifice.

Reader: When **General John Logan** established the first Memorial Day service at Arlington National Cemetery on May 30, 1868 he asked for flowers to be placed on the graves of both union and confederate soldiers.

Reader: For others "whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land..." he wrote:

Reader: "...Guard their graves with sacred vigilance."

Reader: "Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners."

Reader: "Let us... gather around their sacred remains...with the choicest flowers of spring-time."

Reader: "...let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor;"



MEMORIAL DAY

All gave some;
some gave all.

NAVY MOTTO, ORIGIN UNKNOWN

It doesn't take a hero to
order men into battle. It
takes a hero to be one...
who goes into battle.

GENERAL NORMAN
SCHWARTZKOPF

1.2 MILLION 3'X5' AMERICAN
FLAGS LAID END TO END WOULD
STRETCH ACROSS 1,136 MILES.

FIND THE CLOSEST LOCATION
AND VISIT ONE OF THE 220
NATIONAL OR STATE MILITARY
CEMETERIES.

We have enjoyed so much
freedom for so long that we
are perhaps in danger of
forgetting how much blood
it cost to establish the Bill
of Rights.

FELIX FRANKFURTER

With malice towards none
and charity for all...Let us
strive on to finish the work
we are in...to care for him
who shall have borne the
battle and for his widow
and his orphan.

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM
LINCOLN, 2ND INAUGURAL
ADDRESS, MARCH 4, 1865

This past year in historic
revolutions around the world,
many lost their lives in the fight
for freedom. What freedoms
would you fight for?

The American Revolutionary War
4,435 combat deaths
1775-1783

*Casualty figures vary but we include two sites here.

Reader: "Let us... renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan."

Reader: After World War I, Memorial Day expanded to include Americans who died while serving in any war.

Reader: For decades, Americans celebrated the May 30th holiday with parades, tributes at local war memorials and regular visits to military cemeteries to decorate the graves of those who served and fell in war.

Reader: A visit to a military cemetery reminds us that whole families make sacrifices when a family member serves in the armed forces. Thousands of spouses and children lay to rest next to veterans and those who fell in battle.

ALL: "They have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan."

Reader: The sight of tiny American flags waving in row after row, hill after hill at any military cemetery on Memorial Day is a powerful symbol of the eternal dedication of our fellow citizens.

ALL: "...let us raise above them the dear old flag."

Leader: We are grateful that when given the choice to serve, many chose to do so proudly. We are thankful that so many who were drafted in wars not of their choosing served honorably. Please join in the farewell tribute due to every man and woman who died in the service of our freedom:

ALL: (sing or recite "Taps," the traditional melody played at military burials with a stanza of these generally accepted lyrics; click on **TAPS** for a link to the melody)

TAPS

*Day is done,
gone the sun,
From the hills,
from the lake,
From the skies.
All is well,
safely rest,
God is nigh.*

...pause for one minute at 3:00 p.m....on Memorial Day, to remember and reflect on the sacrifices made by so many to provide freedom for all.

MEMO SIGNED BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON, MAY 2, 2000, TO ENCOURAGE NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE; TAPS IS TRADITIONALLY PLAYED AT THIS MOMENT

Leader: In memory of all who gave their lives for our way of life, we promise in the coming year to make a special effort to support and acknowledge all members of our armed services who do so much to protect us and others around the world.

Please see **Taking Action for Those Who Act for Us** to learn how you can help to support those currently serving in the armed forces as well as their families, collect service stories important to your family and honor those who have served our country.

Visit www.freedomfeast.us/memorial-day/ceremony.pdf for the Web addresses of all of the hyperlinks above if you have received this as a printed document.

We hope your Memorial Day is meaningful! Please visit us at www.freedomfeast.us to celebrate other holidays. Visit us on **Facebook**. Thanks to CMOM, our year-round **Raising Citizens** partner.



In what ways do you like to show your dedication to your country?

*Hello American sailor,
Hello freedom man.*

**EARLY 1980s REFUGEE
IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA
RESCUED BY SEAMEN
ABOARD THE CARRIER
MIDWAY**

The **National Holiday Act of 1971** established the 4th Monday of May in the federal calendar and transformed Memorial Day into a 3-day weekend that signals the start of summer and special sales. Can you take time at 3PM on Memorial Day wherever you are to stop and remember?

Every U.S. service member that is killed in Afghanistan returns to Bagram Air Base before they make the trip back home. We all fall out, no matter what time of day or night, and line the streets as the vehicle carrying the casket proceeds to the Aircraft....we all render a final salute to our fallen comrade. That to me is a reminder of the sacrifice that both that service member and that member's family has made in protection of our freedom...

**SrA (SENIOR AIRMAN)
CHRIS R., USAF,
AFGHANISTAN**

Soldiers of the 3rd US Infantry place small US flags on every gravestone at **Arlington National Cemetery** on the Thursday before Memorial Day and patrol throughout the weekend to see that each flag stays upright.

Those things which are precious are saved only by sacrifice.

DAVID KENYON WEBSTER