



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: Memorial Day is a day of remembrance when 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 **1.3 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, begin to travel, and possibly gather together again.

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

*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**

**DURING 2011, 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**

*Those things which are precious
are only saved by sacrifice.*

DAVID KENYON WEBSTER

Draw your favorite spring flowers:

List all the pandemic heroes you can think of who have risked their lives for us:



*Casualty figures vary but we include two sites here.

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

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 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 reminder of the dedication of our fellow citizens.

ALL: "...let us raise above them the dear old flag." (Afterwards, wave flags if you have them)

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 LYRICS

*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 A NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE; TAPS IS TRADITIONALLY PLAYED AT THIS MOMENT.

- TAPS**
- First adopted in 1862 during the civil war as basic melody to signal lights out
 - First used in 1862 to accompany Union soldier funeral when traditional 3 shots might attract enemy attention
 - Officially adopted by 1891 to accompany military funerals
 - Military personnel salute, civilians place right hand over heart when played at a funeral

Leader: We remember those who gave their lives for our way of life. We honor their memories by doing all we can to protect, support and acknowledge those Americans who serve us and who do so much to serve others around the world.

Please see **Celebrate Your Way** to learn how you can help to support those currently serving in the armed forces as well as their families, collect family service stories, and honor those who have served our country.

We hope your Memorial Day is meaningful! Please visit us at www.freedomfeast.us to celebrate other holidays. Visit us on **Facebook**.



INDEPENDENCE DAY



LABOR DAY



THANKSGIVING



MLK DAY



PRESIDENTS DAY

Excerpt from General John A. Logan's Memorial Day Order



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 AS MEMORIAL DAY AND TRANSFORMED THE HOLIDAY 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,[to].... 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.

The war in Afghanistan, the longest in US history at 20 years, ended on August 30, 2021 with our complete withdrawal.