



REMEMBER & HONOR

# MEMORIAL DAY






Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades.

Waterloo—which first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.




On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed.

A watercolor-style graphic of the American flag, featuring red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars. The colors are soft and blended, with some splatters and a textured, artistic feel. It occupies the left side of the slide.

Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries.

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history>



Nearly 500,000 military personnel died during the U.S. Civil War. That's almost half of all Americans who have ever died during wartime, and more than a hundred times more than died during the American Revolution, according to the latest estimates from the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.



## ★ War Time U.S. Military Deaths ★

Revolutionary War	<b>4,435</b>
War of 1812	<b>2,260</b>
Indian Wars	<b>1,000</b>
Mexican War	<b>13,283</b>
Civil War	<b>498,332</b>
Spanish-American War	<b>2,446</b>
World War I	<b>116,516</b>
World War II	<b>405,399</b>
Korean War	<b>54,246</b>
Vietnam War	<b>90,220</b>
Persian Gulf War	<b>1,565</b>
Global War on Terror	<b>6,852</b>

## ★ ★ War Time U.S. Military Deaths ★ ★



Sources: Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/many-americans-died-u-s-wars#:~:text=Nearly%20500%2C000%20military%20personnel%20died%20during%20the%20U.S.,of%20Defense%20and%20the%20Department%20of%20Veterans%20Affairs>





Josh. 4:4 Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man:

5 And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:

6 That this may be a sign among you, *that* when your children ask *their fathers* in time to come, saying, **What mean ye by these stones?**

7 Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and **these stones shall be for a memorial** unto the children of Israel for ever.

8 And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the LORD spake unto Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. ...

Why do we have a national holiday called “Memorial Day”? We set aside such a day for the same reason that the Lord told Joshua to establish a memorial at the Jordan River. There are events in life, and history, that are worth remembering so that we do not forget.

❖ “Remembering” and “not forgetting” are two sides of the same coin.

This morning we will observe the importance of this unique phenomena.

# I. MEMORIALS ARE TIMES FOR REMEMBRANCE

## A. Memorials Remind us of Special Events – the “What and Where”

- ❖ The event in Joshua 4 was a reminder of God’s power and provision for His children, not only in the present, but connected to the past at the Red Sea.

## B. Memorials Remind us of Specific Entities – the “Who” that did the “what” and “where” it was done.

- ❖ The people establishing the memorial were common people, chosen to do a job that represented the entire nation.

- ❖ The more than 1.1 million of Americans who died in all U.S. wars were common people who gave the ultimate sacrifice while representing our entire nation.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AMERICANS KILLED  
IN ALL U.S. WARS IS MORE THAN 1.1 MILLION

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/many-americans-died-u-s->

[wars#:~:text=Nearly%20500%2C000%20military%20personnel%20died%20during%20the%20U.S.,of%20Defense%20and%20the%20Department%20of%20Veterans%20Affairs](#)

## II. MEMORIALS ARE TIMES FOR RESPECT

### A. Respect for the People

- ❖ A day set aside to honor the fallen is to show respect for them and their service.

## B. Respect for the Principles

❖ When respecting a person, their principles are also respected.

### **Ultimate sacrifice**

“I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.” —*Nathan Hale, Revolutionary War soldier.*

“Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.” —*Mark Twain, author.*

“Duty, honor, country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be.” —*Douglas MacArthur, American general.*

<https://www.rd.com/list/patriotic-quotes/>

### III. MEMORIALS ARE TIMES FOR REKINDLING

#### A. Rekindle Connections – How do the events relate to us, personally?

- ❖ Elements in modern American society are trying to rewrite history.
- ❖ George Orwell said, “The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.”

<http://walterewilliams.com/rewriting-american->

[history/#:~:text=The%20challenges%20of%20rewriting%20American%20history%20are%20endless%2C,of%20the%20Declaration%20of%20Independence%20were%20slave%20owners](http://walterewilliams.com/rewriting-american-history/#:~:text=The%20challenges%20of%20rewriting%20American%20history%20are%20endless%2C,of%20the%20Declaration%20of%20Independence%20were%20slave%20owners)

- ❖ Critical race theory is an academic discipline, formulated in the 1990s and built on the intellectual framework of identity-based Marxism.

- ❖ The “1619 Project” project is the explicit claim that the true history of America did not start in 1776, but in 1619, the year when the first slaves arrived to the colonies.
- ❖ This assertion is so wrong, so factually inaccurate, that leading historians (Mrs. Hannah-Jones is a journalist) of both conservative and liberal persuasions, systematically went through her research and found no evidence supporting her contention. (They did, however, find a trove of historical inaccuracies and distortions.)

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/may/24/editorial-1619-project-bad-history-fueled-bad-moti/>

## Preserve freedom

“No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation.” —*Douglas MacArthur, American general*

<https://www.rd.com/list/patriotic-quotes/>

❖ The principles are the foundation for the future and must be guarded against distortion.

B. Rekindle Convictions – What is the purpose for establishing memorials?

Josh. 4:6 That this may be a sign among you, *that* when your children ask *their fathers* in time to come, saying, **What mean ye by these stones?**



Josh. 4:21 And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, **What mean these stones?**

❖ The memorials are to stimulate discussion in order to teach future generations, with the intent on preserving respect for principles, especially those of concern to God.

Heb. 13:16 But to do good and to communicate **forget not**: for with **such sacrifices God is well pleased**.

C. Rekindle Commitments – Observing beliefs that motivated actions, even to die for, if need be.

- ❖ Soldiers die defending their country, for love of their country, for love and protection of fellow soldiers, for “the folks back home,” in fulfillment of duty for which they are trained.
- ❖ Christians should give their lives to honor the One Who is worthy of all of our love, as duty to His principles.

Acts 15:25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26 **Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

❖ God has established a “memorial” for those who love and labor for His glory.

Heb. 6:10 For **God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love**, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

❖ Spiritual truth should rekindle believers to renew convictions and commitment to walk by faith, deny self, and live life for His glory!

Josh. 4:21 And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, **What mean these stones?**

22 Then ye shall **let your children know**, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land.

23 For **the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan** from before you, until ye were passed over, **as the LORD your God did to the Red sea**, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over:

24 **That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.**

Rom. 8:37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

## Conclusion

Heb. 6:9 But, **beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation,** though we thus speak.

10 For **God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.**

11 And **we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:**

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who **through faith and patience inherit the promises.**