



Memorial Day Remembrance

These men died in combat or from combat wounds and gave their lives that you and I may worship and live in freedom.

Thomas Aaron, Army, Vietnam; Bill Blake's friend
Frank Creshine, Army, Korea; Alex Purdy's great uncle
James Jaxheimer, Vietnam; Tracy Kalesnik's uncle
William G. Kasley II, Army, WWII; Gloria Leach's great uncle
Jim McCabe, Navy, Korea; Walker McWilliams' friend & shipmate
Timothy J. Noden, Army, Vietnam; Cousin of Marilyn Locke & Barbara Barrowclough
Herbert Renfro, Army, Korea; Bill McKinney's cousin
Elton L. Searcy, Army, Vietnam, Apr. 25, 1969; Pastor Dan's cousin
W. Edward Stillman, Coast Guard, WWII; Bobbi Donaldson's great uncle
Phillip Wahls, USMC, Vietnam; Bob Smith's friend
George Watt, Jr., Navy, WWII; Pastor Watt's brother
Cpl. Martinez, USMC, Afghanistan; Capt. Josh Edwards' command
PFC Adams, USMC, a double amputee as the result of an IED in Afghanistan. Capt. Josh Edwards' command

Wars & Military Actions	Military Battle Deaths
Revolutionary War (1775-1783)	4,435
War of 1812 (1812-1815)	2,260
Mexican War (1846-1848)	1,733
Civil War (1861-1865) North & South	274,235
Spanish-American (1898)	385
World War I (1917-1918)	53,402
World War II (1941-1945)	291,557
Korean War / Conflict (1950-1953)	33,741
Vietnam War / Conflict (1964-1973)	47,424
Beirut, Lebanon (1982-1984)	256
Grenada (1983)	18
Panama (1989)	23
Persian Gulf War – Desert Storm (1990-1991)	148
Somalia (1992-1994)	29
Iraq - Operation Iraqi Freedom (Mar. 19, 2003 – Aug. 31, 2010)	3,491
Iraq - Operation New Dawn (Sept. 1, 2010 – Dec. 31, 2011)	38
Afghanistan - Operation Enduring Freedom (2001 – May 22, 2015)	1,845

These numbers are from U.S. government web sites, May 22, 2015.
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/106165.pdf>
<http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>

(Total military deaths are higher.)
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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.

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 American Civil War. Businesses 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.

Sharron G. Uhler, "Memorial Day,"
World Book Online Americas Edition

