

MEMORIAL DAY: THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

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Freedom truly is a gift from God. Words engraved on Jefferson's Memorial reflect that truth: "God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time." And freedom is foundational to who we are as a people. It is a part of the American DNA. But freedom is not free. Jesus Himself said:

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

(John 15:13 ESV)



Freedom requires sacrifice. And that is true for our nation. The cost of freedom is great. The fight for freedom is never over. We must fight to win it, and then we must fight to keep it.

Just survey our rich history and heritage of freedom. From the Minute Men who were out-manned and out-gunned by the British on Lexington Green and later that day at Concord Bridge in 1775, to General Washington and his ill clad men enduring the harsh winter at Valley Forge in 1778, to the rocket's red glare over Fort McHenry in the War of 1812, to the blood soaked fields around Gettysburg where brother fought against brother in 1863, to the Doughboys in the trenches facing sniper fire and mustard gas in WWI, to the scores of Sailors who died at Pearl Harbor, to the Soldiers who stormed the beaches of Normandy, to the Airmen who went on bombing raids over Tokyo, to the Marines who fought on the shores of Iwo Jima, on the frigid hills of Korea, the jungles of Vietnam, the deserts of Iraq, and the rugged mountains of Afghanistan —these Patriots secured our liberty at a high price.



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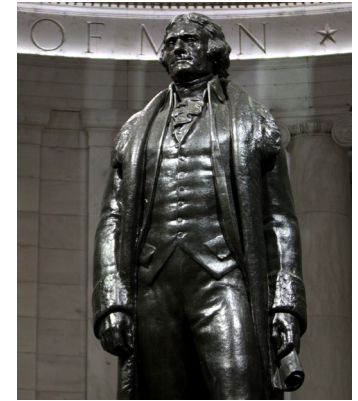
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Memorial Day is a time to pause and reflect on the great sacrifices made for the freedoms we now enjoy. We are the land of the free because of the brave. Memorial Day was originally known as “Decoration Day,” a day to decorate the graves of those who died in the Civil War. Today we honor all those who died in any American war.



Because of God’s blessing and because of the sacrifices of our military, no other nation enjoys such great freedoms. America owes a debt to our fallen heroes that we can never fully repay. The least we can do is honor these heroes on Memorial Day.

ACTION STEPS:

- 1. Pray** for the members of the military and their families. Thank God for those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. A National Moment of Remembrance is to be observed each Memorial Day at 3:00 PM local time. Pray then and when you bless your Memorial Day meal.
- 2. Remember** loved ones and relatives who served in the military, especially those who have died in service to our country and those who served honorably but who are now deceased. Tell their stories at your Memorial Day gathering. Fly the flag at half-staff from morning til noon.
- 3. Volunteer** to decorate the graves of service members with a flower and a flag in cemeteries in your community. Be sure and take some kids or grandkids along for the teachable moment. Let’s honor their sacrifice.

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