

# Memorial Day

Monday is Memorial Day. It is a patriotic holiday set aside to remember those who gave their lives in military service. It is observed the last Monday of May each year. The government made it a federal holiday in 1971. No one knows exactly when or where Memorial Day was first observed. According to tradition, it originated during the Civil War when some Southern women chose May 30 to decorate the graves of both from the Union and Confederate Armies (World Book Encyclopedia "Memorial Day").

We need to remember those who have given us the freedom and liberties that we enjoy in this country. You may have seen the following as it made the rounds in cyber space, but it is worth reading again:

It is the VETERAN, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the VETERAN, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the VETERAN, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the VETERAN, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the VETERAN, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the VETERAN, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.

Not only are we thankful for those who have given their lives for us, but we are mindful and appreciative of the young men and women who are serving us today through the military. We are especially mindful of those from this congregation.

## A Spiritual Memorial Day

Each Sunday faithful followers of Christ gather in the appointed assembly for the purpose of a memorial - remembering the death of Christ (Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 11:23ff). Without His death we would still be dead in our sins and iniquities. But, because of His death we have freedom, forgiveness, and hope of a future home with Him in heaven. Whereas it has taken the death of thousands to give us the freedoms we enjoy in this country, His blood was so powerful that it took only the death of one to give us spiritual freedom.

May we never let His death or this memorial become mundane. May it always be a fresh and real reminder each Lord's Day of the great sacrifice that was made on our behalf.

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