

# Honoring Memorial Day

Families, such as my own, often take for granted seeing all of their members safe and healthy. We don't say "I love you" as much as we should to those we do love as a result. However, others are only given this chance to see a loved one every few months or so due to service time in the military, navy, marines, air force, or coastguard. Moreover, a child may never see their father or mother again because he or she died serving their country. Or, maybe a parent never gets to say, in person, that they love their son or daughter because that son or daughter was killed fighting for those who couldn't. Americans need to honor Memorial Day to respect those who mourn the loss of a loved one in war and to always remember the fallen soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Losing somebody is always difficult, regardless the situation. In Arlington National Cemetery, there are over 400,000 people buried. In other words, 400,000 families that have been impacted and have had to grieve over a loss. We should respect those who have lost someone on this solemn holiday. Not only that, but we can respect our own losses from wars by decorating their memorials with flowers, ribbons, and flags. Memorial Days is the perfect time to honor and remember those who have died in combat.

Most importantly, Americans need to honor and recognize the unsung heroes who sacrificed an extensive amount of time, effort, and more to fight so we don't have to. Without the patriotism of those who put themselves before their country, America would not be the thriving nation it is. Despite all the pain and suffering cadets go through in the boot camp and battlefield, they still find a way to think of their country above of themselves. It is easy to forget about the servicemen and women who died in combat because we grow accustomed to worrying about our own lives. Conversely, we can never forget. How can we forget the innocent Americans who gave every part of them for the lives of others?

General John A. Logan was a leader and Northern Civil War veteran who called for a day of remembrance for the soldiers in that war. He said, "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" The origin of this holiday began only recognizing the soldiers in the Civil War. Some of the first cemeteries were established through it as well. Men, women, and children would decorate the tomb of a fallen soldier. Throughout the years, however, this day of remembrance has spread to any trooper who died in any war and is celebrated the last Monday of May.

As a citizen of the United States, I strongly believe and encourage Americans to honor Memorial Day. We should honor Memorial Day for those who may lament over the death of a beloved family member or friend. Furthermore, the agony and torment members of the armed forces underwent for our own privileged life shall never be overlooked. To show honor to the war dead who defended our freedom and rights, we could proudly fly the American flag.