

"The Price of Freedom"

Memorial Day 2019 @ SCN

John 15:13 -- *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."*

This is what Memorial Day weekend and Memorial Day is all about.

- *It's Remembrance Day for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives serving and fighting for our great country.*
- **It's NOT about barbecues, camping, parties, and store sales.**
- R.I.P. to ALL the Men and Women who paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives for us to be able to be "Free."

Memorial Day is a [United States federal holiday](#), which occurs every year on the final Monday of May.

Memorial Day is a *day of remembering* the men and women who died while serving in the [United States Armed Forces](#).

~~ By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended *to honor all* Americans who have died while in the military service [3].

Memorial Day Is Not to Be Confused With [Veterans Day](#);

- ***MEMORIAL DAY IS A DAY OF REMEMBERING THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO DIED WHILE SERVING,***

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- *While Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, living or dead.*

On Memorial Day the [flag of the United States](#) is raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon. [38] ~~ It *is then raised to full-staff for the remainder of the day.*

The half-staff position remembers the more than 1,500,000 men and women who gave their lives in service of their country.
THEY DIED FOR US

- Since the Revolutionary War we have had almost 3 million service men and women who have either died or been wounded in the wars America has fought in.
- Deaths of our military in wars since...
 - Revolutionary War ~~ 25,000
 - Civil War ~~ 600,000+ (yes... 600,000+)
 - WWI ~~ 116,516
 - WW II ~~ 405,399
 - Korea ~~ 36,516
 - Vietnam ~~ 58,219
 - Iraq ~~ 4,404
 - Afghanistan ~~ 1,086

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- Countless others have died in places that remain nameless ... *BUT THEIR Sacrificial Deaths are also remembered with THANKFUL HEARTS*

In times other than these above-mentioned wars thousands of other US military personnel have given their *"last full measure of devotion on our behalf"* for our country & its freedom.

REMEMBER:

People count. Memorial Day weekend is about people, about remembering these people who gave their all for us.

John 15:13 -- *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."*

I. TODAY; WE LOOK BACK AND REMEMBER...

~~ We Mourn the Loss of those who gave their lives for us and our freedom

~~ We Remember the PRICE they PAID for each of us

II. - LOOK OUT AND LOVE...

~~ Be Thankful for their sacrifice_ <HEROES>

... I have heard many active duty military & Veterans say: *"The Real Heroes are the ones who didn't come home alive" ... They are the Ones who died in battle"*

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~~ As you enjoy your picnics, cook outs and fellowship time...Take a Moment to STOP & Remember & THANKS for the Freedom you enjoy. IT WAS PAID FOR w/ a PRICE.

III. LOOK UP AND HONOR

John 15:13 -- *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

A. *Thank God for Freedom***■ *IT WAS PAID FOR WITH A PRICE*****B. *Think what Jesus Did for You*****■ *JESUS PAID IT ALL***

There are 136 United States national military cemeteries around the world and many State sponsored military cemeteries as well.

It is with honor that we remember those who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy today.

~~ Both freedom and life never come with a price.

... The blood of many fine soldiers paid for the freedom that we have today, just as the blood of the tiny lamb of the Passover paid for the lives of hundreds of thousands of Israelites.

... A price has to be paid for freedom and life, and that price is the death of another.

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... Someone, or something, has to die in order that we might live.

Our country's soldiers died that we might have a life of freedom, and Jesus died that we might have life eternal.

- A. In the story of the Passover, the blood of a lamb was marked on the doorposts and this caused the destroyer to pass over the households that were marked, thus granting them life.
- B. This represented the cross of Jesus Christ upon which the very Lamb of God would give his own life that we might live forever in God's kingdom.
- C. Our soldiers died for our country's freedom, and Jesus died for our spiritual freedom.
- D. Jesus paid for our spiritual freedom and gave us a crown in heaven when he died on the cross.
 - a. There is no freedom without the shedding of blood.
 - b. We should never forget our many soldiers who died for our freedom here in America.
 - c. Most importantly we must never forget our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave his own life on a cross that we might have eternal life.

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Finally, we must always remember and never forget that eternal freedom comes through Jesus Christ our Lord.

So, Memorial Day is about remembering those who fought and died for our freedom that we enjoy in America today.

And, today we also remember the great gift of freedom purchased by the death of Jesus Christ just as we do every Sunday and hopefully every day in between.

On this Memorial Day remember true freedom.

~~ It is only through Christ that spiritual freedom exists.

Note: There are many-many American Heroes who gave their life for our freedom.

You can go to their grave and Remember with Thankfulness their life & their sacrifice for our freedom.

But you can't go to Jesus' tomb and find Him in the grave...

HE PAID IT ALL FOR US

... YET

HIS TOMB IS EMPTY BECAUSE HE IS ALIVE

&

HE IS EVER INTERCEDING FOR US

So, what do you remember today?

... Remember those who PAID FOR YOUR FREEDOM !!!

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BENEDICTION:

May the LORD bless you and keep you; may the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26 (ESV)