

Memorial Day

The Memorial Day holiday starts another summer season. This holiday gives many of us a long weekend and a day off from work. It is a day for starting the grill in the back yard and being with family and friends. But in all the fun of the holiday, many have forgotten that the word "Memorial" is there for a reason.

The true meaning of Memorial Day is to give us a chance to remember, honor, and pay tribute to all the men and women who have given their lives in defense of our Nation and our Freedom. Memorial Day dates back to 1868 when it was designated for the purpose of honoring those who died during the Civil War. There is a symbolism to honor those who have died for their country. From sunrise until 12 Noon, our Flag flies at half-staff to pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. At 12 Noon, we offer a prayer in remembrance of all those who died, after which the Flag is returned to full-staff to pay tribute to those who continue to defend our country.

Although this is a day of fun and celebration for most, we should all take a few moments to stop and remember those who gave their lives in defense of our nation. They paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy all the freedoms and liberties that our country has to offer. They were willing to serve in the Armed Forces of our Nation knowing that they might be called upon to fight and die for us.

It is named Memorial Day for a reason, and we should all strive to insure that "Memorial" is part of our remembrance and tradition. It is the least we can do to honor and respect the sacrifice that they have paid in defense of our Nation and of us.

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