## Memorial Day

Monday, May 30th is the Memorial Day holiday. For many it represents a long weekend, a day off from work, and the start of the summer season. It is a day for family get-togethers and grilling in the back yard. But many have forgotten that the word "memorial" is there for a reason.

The true meaning of Memorial Day is to give all of 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.

On this holiday, all of us should take just a few moments to stop and remember those who have died in defense of our country. After all, without their sacrifice, we would not be enjoying our freedoms and liberties that we have today. It is named Memorial Day for a reason, and we should all strive to insure that "memorial" is part of our remembrance.

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