



## Trinity Episcopal Church and Anglican Community: Memorial Day Special Edition May 25, 2026

### MEMORIAL DAY



O God, we ask your strength, that we might dedicate ourselves to perfecting your kingdom of peace and justice among nations. Let us give thanks for the many blessings of freedom which we possess, purchased at the cost of many lives and sacrifices. Fill us with courage to fulfill our tasks and in no way break faith with the fallen. We commend these fallen to your mercy and ask that you give them eternal rest. This we ask and pray in your name. *Amen*

*National Cathedral, National Service Commemorating Memorial Day*  
✝



***“Help me to remember  
somewhere out there a man died for me today.  
As long as there be war,  
I must ask and answer ‘Am I worth dying for?’”***

*Twenty Years Ago ...*

### **Memorial Day Remarks by Former President George H. W. Bush**

*Re-released by his former Chief of Staff, Jean Becker.*

Tom Brokaw, in his wonderful book, called the World War II veterans the “greatest generation.” I respectfully disagree. The men and women who make up our all-volunteer forces fighting today in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and serving with honor and integrity in countless other locations around the world are every bit as great as any generation that preceded them. The comforts of modern society have not lessened the burdens that they have freely borne, just as their families have not been spared the constant pain of separation.

To each of them, no less a debt of gratitude is owed.

An inherent part of our birthright as Americans is a sacred duty to defend freedom. Today, we as Americans – now facing this new enemy in international terror – can take solace that despite the dangers we still face in our world, a new band of brothers has stepped forward and answered this

timeless, noble call. This new generation loves America just as much as the patriots who fought in World War II, Vietnam, Korea, Desert Storm – and everywhere in between.

During World War II, Eleanor Roosevelt reportedly kept a prayer at her bedside that read: “Help me to remember somewhere out there a man died for me today. As long as there be war, I must ask and answer ‘Am I worth dying for?’”

Tonight when you go to sleep – and say your prayers of gratitude for those who served so many years ago in World War II – remember, too, that at that moment there is a young man or woman half-way around the world, sitting alone in the dark, waiting to go out on patrol. They may be tired, and even a little scared – but every day they put on that uniform, and they lay their lives on the line for each of us, to keep us free and safe. They not only make us proud: despite the uncertainty of the times in which we find ourselves, they also inspire us, and give us confidence in our future.

And so while it is proper that we pause to look back, and reflect on past heroism, let us also not be afraid to look forward with renewed faith, hope, and courage that America’s best days are yet to be.



**“Memorial Day is not a celebration  
but a day to reflect on veterans and military personnel who are deceased.”**



**Memorial Day** originally honored the Civil War dead and now **honors all service members and veterans who died while in service to the United States during peace and war.** This includes the 12 major wars the United States has fought, in addition to other conflicts.

**Remember, it is *not Veterans Day*, which is the day to tag all your people, posting photos with your brother in uniform or the selfie with your bestie before they deployed.**

**Memorial Day is about remembering and honoring every single man and woman who has died for our freedoms -- men and women who were mommies and daddies, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, patriots, incredible Americans and really, really great friends.\***



**YES!** We want to *both* **HONOR** “those who died while defending our nation,” *and* **celebrate our great nation, family, neighbors, & friends that these men and women sacrificed for.** Have a great parade! Enjoy your yummy barbecue! Make the most of your extended weekend!

**AND**

**PAUSE AT 3:00 pm TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO WE HONOR**



## **PRESIDENT CLINTON: CALLING ON ALL AMERICANS TO JOIN IN A NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE**

"As we contemplate the comforts and blessings of our lives and the well-being of our nation, I ask you to pause just for a moment to remember those who gave their lives to protect the values that give meaning to our lives."

President Bill Clinton  
May 31, 1999

The National Moment of Remembrance program was established to remind Americans of the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces as well as others who have died as a result of service to this nation. Americans around the world should pause and remember these heroes in a symbolic act of unity.

### **Objectives:**

- To raise Americans' awareness of the honorable contributions made by those who died while defending our nation.
- To encourage all Americans to honor those who died as a result of service to this nation by pausing for one minute at 3:00 p.m. (local time) on Memorial Day.



### **In Their Words:**

## **How Recent Presidents Have Honored America's Fallen on Memorial Day\***

*\*Excerpts from article published by Associated Press and re-released by Military.com. Additional excerpts cited below.*



Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery  
(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, File)

From Arlington National Cemetery outside the nation's capital to the American burial ground in Normandy, France, presidents customarily commemorate Memorial Day on hallowed ground.

## **RONALD REAGAN**

“The willingness of some to give their lives so that others might live never fails to evoke in us a sense of wonder and mystery. One gets that feeling here on this hallowed ground. And I have known that same poignant feeling as I looked out across the rows of white crosses and stars of David in Europe, in the Philippines and the military cemeteries here in our own land. Each one marks the resting place of an American hero.” — May 31, 1982, Arlington Cemetery.

## **WILLIAM CLINTON**

“Let us resolve to take ... a renewed sense of our national unity and purpose, a deepened gratitude for the sacrifice of those whose names we touched and whose memories we revere, and a finer dedication to making America a better place for their children and for our children, too.” May 31, 1993, Vietnam Memorial.

## **GEORGE W. BUSH**

“The day will come when no one is left who knew them. When no visitor to this cemetery can stand before a grave remembering a face and a voice. The day will never come when America forgets them. Our nation and the world will always remember what they did here, what they gave here, for the future of humanity.” — May 27, 2002; Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

## **BARACK OBAMA\***

“Here, at Arlington, the deafening sounds of combat have given way to the silence of these sacred hills. The chaos and confusion of battle have yielded to perfect, precise rows of peace. The Americans who rest here, and their families -- the best of us, those from whom we asked everything -- ask of us today only one thing in return: that we remember them.” – May 30, 2016, Arlington Cemetery

## **DONALD TRUMP**

“They were generals and privates, captains and corporals, of every race, color, and of every creed. But they were all brothers and sisters in arms. And they were all united then, as they are united now forever, by their undying love of our great country.” — May 28, 2018, Arlington Cemetery.

## **JOE BIDEN**

“This is the mission of our time. Our memorial to them must not be just the day when we pause and pray. It must be a daily commitment to act, to come together, to be worthy of the price that was paid.” – May 30, 2022, Arlington Cemetery

## **DONALD TRUMP\***

“Their valor gave us the freest, greatest and most noble republic ever to exist on the face of the earth —” – May 26, 2025, Arlington Cemetery.

Original article published by Associated Press [\*updated by editor with additional material]

[In Their Words: How Recent Presidents Have Honored America's Fallen on Memorial Day](#)

[What is Memorial Day and how has it changed over the years? | AP News](#)

[\\*Remarks at a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial | The American Presidency Project](#)

[\\*Remarks by the President on Memorial Day, 2016 | whitehouse.gov](#)

[\\*President Speaks of Sacrifice and Boasts of His Successes in Memorial Day Address - The New York Times](#)

[\\*National Moment of Remembrance](#), National Archives and Records Administration



## **Prayers for the Nation**

*From National Service Commemorating Memorial Day*

Leader Almighty God, giver of all good things: we thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them.

**People Heal us.**

Leader We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them.

**People Forgive us.**

Leader We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, though we often fall short of them.

**People Inspire us.**

Leader We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light.

**People Enlighten us.**

Leader We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again.

**People Renew us.**

Leader Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name.

**People Amen.**

*National Cathedral, National Service Commemorating Memorial Day*





*A national moment of observance takes place at 3 PM on Memorial Day*

## Memorial Day, May 25, 2026



*Blessings to all  
our family & friends  
and to the many  
we do not personally know  
who made the  
ultimate sacrifice.*



## COME LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER

5/31: First Sunday after Pentecost – Rev. Dr. Philip Yohannon

Sharon Pierson Lector/Server  
Roget Price, Crucifer

## 2026 Memorial Day Events



**Join ALLENDALE for Memorial Day on Monday, May 25, 2026.**

- **9:30 a.m.** | Parade Kickoff: Marches through the downtown area.
- **10:15 a.m.** | Memorial Ceremony: Honors the borough's fallen heroes at Memorial Park.
- Following Ceremony | Fire House Refreshments: Head to 1 Erie Plaza to gather with your neighbors.

## **BERGEN COUNTY MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS**

### **[The Ridgewood Run Memorial Mile](#) | 156-158 Northern Parkway, Ridgewood**

*Monday, May 25 | 7:55 AM*

This annual running event features multiple challenges, including a 10K, 5K, The Ridgewood Run Memorial Mile, or Kids' Fun Run. The event will be held at Veterans Memorial Field.

### **[Fort Lee Memorial Day Parade](#) | 1355 Inwood Terrace, Fort Lee**

*Monday, May 25 | 10:00 AM*

Fort Lee's annual Memorial Day Parade will start at the Jack Alter Fort Lee Community Center and proceed through the city. Visitors can enjoy a ceremony, live music, and refreshments.

### **[Wyckoff Memorial Day Parade, Ceremony + Celebration](#) | Corner of Russell + Wyckoff Avenues, Wyckoff**

*Monday, May 25 | 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM*

The Wyckoff Memorial Day Parade will start at the corner of Russell + Wyckoff Avenues and feature a Chamber float in celebration of the holiday.

### **[L.E.A.D. Fest Carnival](#) | 5 South Main Street, Allentown**

*Friday, May 22 – Monday, May 25*

Hosted by Law Enforcement Against Drugs & Violence (L.E.A.D.), this annual event will run through all of Memorial Day Weekend and feature food, games, rides, and more.

## **IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL & AVAILABLE ON TV**

### **Arlington National Cemetery**

The [Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Day ceremony](#) takes place on **Monday, May 25, 2026**, at the Amphitheater. The president of the United States typically delivers an address at the ceremony. Numerous military and government organizations also conduct services. All ceremonies and special events are free and open to the public. Check the [Arlington National Cemetery website](#) for details as the date approaches.

### **National Memorial Day Concert**

The [National Memorial Day Concert](#), in its 37th year, will be broadcast live from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol on **Sunday, May 24, 2025**, starting at 8 p.m. ET. Hosted by Gary Sinise, the event features Joe Mantegna, Noah Wyle and other performers, several military branch choral and instrumental groups, and the National Symphony Orchestra. It will be [livestreamed on PBS](#).

### **National Memorial Day Parade**

Hosted by the American Veterans Center, the [National Memorial Day Parade](#) returns to Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C., on **Monday, May 26, 2025**, starting at 2 p.m. Experience the parade live or watch it on television, followed by a special Independence Day television program, "Our Sacred Honor: An American Salute," to be broadcast on ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and CW stations.

### **"Rolling To Remember" Rally**

A series of events to honor the nation's prisoners of war and missing in action is set to take place over Memorial Day weekend in Washington, D.C. [The "Rolling To Remember" rally](#) will conclude with a ride by thousands of bikers on **Sunday, May 24, 2026**. The motorcycle demonstration ride, hosted by AMVETS, is also a call for action to prevent veteran suicides.

## **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Annual Observance at The Wall**

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund [annual Memorial Day Ceremony](#) will be held at 1 p.m. **Monday, May 25, 2026**, at 5 Henry Bacon Dr NW, Washington, D.C. It will be broadcast at [vvmf.org/live](http://vvmf.org/live). [Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony details](#)

## **Military Women's Memorial Program**

The 28th annual [Memorial Day Program by Military Women's Memorial](#) takes place **Monday, May 26, 2025**, from 3-5 p.m. at Memorial Avenue and Schley Drive in Arlington, Virginia.

## **VA National Cemeteries**

The Department of Veterans Affairs hosts public Memorial Day [commemoration ceremonies](#) at 130 national cemeteries over Memorial Day weekend. The VA encourages visitors to contact the appropriate national cemetery to confirm ceremony information prior to the event.

You can also check our [Base Guide](#) to find your local installation to discover what events are planned for Memorial Day near you.



## **Origins and Evolution of Memorial Day**

Although the exact origins of Memorial Day are disputed, the first observance of Memorial Day is thought to have taken place in April 1865, when a group of former slaves gathered at a Charleston, SC horse track turned Confederate prison where more than 250 Union soldiers had died. The bodies of soldiers buried in a mass grave were reinterred in individual graves on the site. On May 1, 1865, some 10,000 black Charleston residents, white missionaries, teachers, schoolchildren and Union troops marched around the Planters' Race Course, singing and carrying armfuls of roses.

In 1868, Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the grand Army of the Republic—an organization of former soldiers and sailors—issued what was called General Order Number 11, designating May 30 as a memorial day. He declared it to be “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 first national celebration of Memorial Day (originally Decoration Day) took place May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery. The national observance of Memorial Day still takes place there today, with the placing of a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the decoration of each grave with a small American flag.



On May 11, 1950, Congress issued a joint resolution requesting that the president proclaim a “Prayer for Peace” on each Memorial Day.

In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a federal holiday to be held on the last Monday of every May. On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember the fallen, and honor all who have served our country, as we unite in prayer for permanent peace in the world.

*National Cathedral, National Service Commemorating Memorial Day*

## ***More Historical Context ...***

The establishment of **Memorial Day weekend** has been seen by some as a benefit to the travel, sports, and entertainment industries. Veterans' organizations have urged that the holiday be returned to its

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original date, arguing that the three-day weekend undermines its intended meaning. In response, Congress passed the *National Moment of Remembrance Act*, which encourages people to pause at **3:00 p.m. for a moment of silent reflection and remembrance.**



Several English-speaking countries adopted the **poppy flower** as a symbol of remembrance for fallen soldiers after World War I. This tradition was inspired by the poem *In Flanders Fields*, written by Canadian military doctor **John McCrae**, which describes poppies growing among soldiers' graves. In the United States, the poppy was originally associated with Veterans Day but is now primarily worn during Memorial Day weekend.

One of the focal points of Memorial Day is the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery**. This symbolic monument was established in 1921 and originally held the remains of an unidentified soldier who died in World War I. Later, unidentified soldiers from World War II and the Korean War were also interred at the site. A permanent military guard stands watch year-round, honoring the sacrifice of all unidentified service members.



**CLICK ▼ TO WATCH this moving video**

[\(830\) A PRICE FOR FREEDOM - featuring Hymn to the Fallen and Mansions of the Lord - YouTube](#)



When you think about Memorial Day, who comes to mind? A parent. A sibling. A friend who served. For many families, Memorial Day is deeply personal, a time to remember someone who answered the call to serve and carried the weight of that service in ways most Americans will never face.

**This Memorial Day, the USO invites you to honor the service member in your life in a meaningful way. By giving today, you can help carry their legacy forward by helping provide care, connection and support for today's troops, who remain ready to answer the call.**

**MATCH MY GIFT IN HONOR OF A SERVICE MEMBER**

For a limited time, our friends at Flags USA are matching every gift, up to \$25,000.



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**\*Sources:** See *Military.com Memorial Day*, Also:

Jean Becker personal archives, National Archives and Records Administration: [National Moment of Remembrance](#),

\*[Tiffini Theisen | Military.com](#) “What is Memorial Day?”, [Veterans Day and Memorial Day Explained](#),

[Broncos All-Pro Garrett Bolles Honors Veterans Before Memorial Day Honor Flight](#), Actors Gary Sinise, Joe Mantegna,

[Prep to Host Massive Memorial Day Concert](#), [Gen. John A. Logan Gave America Memorial Day. Why He Was](#)

[Forgotten](#), [National Memorial Day Parade](#), [2026 Memorial Day Events](#), [\(830\) Washington National Cathedral -](#)

[YouTube](#), [National Memorial Day Observance](#), [Every American Needs to Know What Happens at 3 p.m. on Memorial](#)

[Day](#)

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