

## The True Meaning of Memorial day

Why is it that Memorial day is named what it is? Why the word memorial? It is true we as Americans are expected to remember our fallen servicemen, but it's more than that. We should praise and admire these brave people because it takes a special kind of person to knowingly risk your life. All of these men and women held steadfast at the mouth of the doors death and did their duty in the name of freedom and democracy. These brave souls died for everything our country believes in. It is estimated 1.3 million military personnel have gave their lives while serving. The number is staggering, but also brings a sense of pride as over a million brave men and women were from our nation. However, Memorial day is also about the families of these fallen heroes, for every fallen soldier countless family members and loved ones struggle with the fallout from this great sacrifice. Few of us can truly comprehend such pain and struggle. As a nation we must come together and praise these fallen heroes and their families and do our best to work towards peace whenever possible. If we as a country do not cherish the peace that these sacrifices have earned us how can continue to expect men and women to risk there lives continuously? We must always try to be peaceful before resolving to warfare otherwise how can we ask our servicemen to risk their lives. This would essentially remove the true purpose and value of what we ask our armed forces to do each and every day. Perhaps the best way to truly understand all of this is to go to a place such as the Arlington National Cemetery where 260 thousand have their eternal resting place. Or talking to a veteran about their experiences and understanding what it means to risk your life and go through the perils of battle and daily military life. There are many ways you can show your respect for these heroes, but in the end we should simply recognize what Memorial day really means. Everything we have and the way we live is owed to every soldier lost in battle. Every breath we take, we take because a fallen hero

already gave their last. Every moment we spend with our loved ones is a moment they will never have again. You must realize that these soldiers were indeed soldiers, but also regular people like you and me. They had lives of their own with dreams, ambition, family, friends, memories, thoughts, and beliefs. We owe it to each and every one of them just one day to praise them for their heroism and to show the family of these heroes our eternal gratitude. We also must always do our best to work towards peace before and during war in order to preserve the memory of all of the heroes, but also to prevent further loss. All in all, as each and every fallen soldier has performed their duty and given the ultimate sacrifice, we must do our duty to them and remember the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Bibliography: Mowry, Curtis, Adam Pimentel, Elizabeth Sparks, and Brittany Hanlon.

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