

SAID ED May 25, 2014

Memorial Day

Memorial Day marks the unofficial start of the summer season, graduations and their accompanying parties, picnics and sustained warm weather. Memorial Day is also a solemn time to remember the sacrifice of our military men and women and our First Responders. It is a time to reflect upon our obligation to those who do and have served our country. Our commitment must continue long after high-profile conflicts cease.

A “Soldiers Battle” is defined as a hand to hand encounter between opposing soldiers with little or no support. Too often today our returning soldiers are left to a Soldiers Battle to get the services that they have earned by virtue of their willingness to lay their life on the line for our country, our freedom and our liberty.

As men & women, who have served our country in World War II, Korea, Viet Nam, Afghanistan & Iraq share their stories, it is clear that veterans’ issues are our issues as a country. Sending people into harm’s way carries with it a serious responsibility to support them before, during and after their service. For far too long the true dollar cost of war has been hidden – ignored and shifted to states, communities and, worst of all, to veterans and their families. The clear message from every Veteran is a sense of pride for their role in protecting and preserving the freedom, liberty and safety of the United States. Memorial Day is a way to honor their generosity and service.

Memorial Day is a day to remember and a day to appreciate those who serve and their families. As President Benjamin Harrison (President of the USA 1889 – 1893) noted, while it is a day of memory and sadness it is also a day to celebrate and commemorate the bravery, strength and pride that fills the hearts of those who serve their country.

“I have never been able to think of the day as one of mourning; I have never quite been able to feel that half-masted flags were appropriate on Decoration Day. I have rather felt that the flag should be at the peak, because those whose dying we commemorate rejoiced in seeing it where their valor placed it. We honor them in a joyous, thankful, triumphant commemoration of what they did. We mourn for them as comrades, who have departed, but we feel the glory of their dying and the glory of their achievement covers all our great country, and has set them in an imperishable roll of honor.” (President Benjamin Harrison at Independence Hall Philadelphia on Decoration Day May 30, 1891)

As we gear up to have a summer full of relaxation, partying and playful recreation, let’s not forget those whose service keeps us free and safe from harm.

Have a great week!
