



Memorial Day, an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May, honors men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day, was known as Decoration Day originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars.

The Civil War claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history, requiring the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. While those who died are also remembered, Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL those who served honorably in the military — in wartime or peacetime

Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time. Would you please take time today and pray for the families of those who have lost loved ones. Also, please pray for the men and women who are serving this country here and abroad.

*A special prayer on Memorial Day – As we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy every day, we think of how they have followed in the footsteps of your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please hold our servicemen and women in your strong arms. Cover them with your sheltering grace and your presence as they stand in the gap for our protection. We also remember the families of our troops. We ask for your unique blessings to fill their homes, and we pray your peace, provision, and strength will fill their lives. May the members of our armed forces be supplied with courage to face each day and may they trust in the Lord's mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support. In the name of Jesus. Amen.*

by Rob Kerby

Resources:

<http://www.usmemorialday.org/>

<http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history>

<http://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/galleries/15-inspirational-prayers-for-memorial-day.aspx>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUZHTE1jMXg>