

+REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED+

This is My commandment: love one another as I love you.
No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15: 12-13



We pause and remember that You, O God, are always and everywhere with and among us. You are a God of love Who hates evil and injustice. Glory be to You, O God, for Your presence among us. Holy is God; holy and mighty; holy and living forever.



On Memorial Day or as it was formerly called, Decoration Day, our country pauses and remembers all those men and women who have protected and defended us throughout our history. We remember those in the military and also those who serve as police and fire personnel. Bless the souls of these women and men who unselfishly gave their lives for us. Foremost in our thoughts are the men and women who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. We pray too for all those who have been wounded in mind, body and spirit.

Remember rockets red glare
bombs bursting in air
gave through the night that our flag is still there.

Our forefathers reminder of a price to be paid and responsibility to inherit the United States.

Rockets red glare bombs bursting in air
Words fallen on ears unwilling to hear.
deaf no more we all know now the price of freedom the price of war.

Freeborn children listen and see a new generation paying for you and me
Don't be so blind or so deaf to the sights and sounds Americans have left,

Let freedom scream in our ears and minds never forget those left behind.
Freeborn children stand tall and see! does the banner old glory yet wave for thee

God bless America and all those who protect and defend us.

Amos 5: 6,14–15,24

Seek the Lord, that you may live.

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; then truly will the Lord, the God of hosts, be with you.

Hate evil and love good, and let justice prevail.

Let justice surge like water, and goodness like an unfailing stream.

GALATIANS 5: 1,13–16,22–26

For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

For you were called for freedom, brothers and sisters. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love.

For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

But if you go on biting and devouring one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.

Let us not be conceited, provoking one another, envious of one another.

REFLECTION by Jesse Brown former Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Memorial Day has traditionally been one of the most solemn and patriotic days for Americans.

Memorial Day is a day when all Americans, regardless of ideologies, race, creed, or political persuasion, join together to remember the sacrifices of those who answered their nation's call.

The significance of this day is sometimes confused or distorted. The true meaning of Memorial Day becomes at times, distant or vague, lost to commercialism, or drowned in forgetful indulgence. Sometimes, there is a failure to recognize the magnitude of the deeds of the men and women who held true to the notion that evil and tyranny must not prevail.

It is our sacred duty to keep the legacy of our nation's patriots forever fresh in the memories of future generations. We are bound by honor to do so. They fought and died to preserve this land of hopes and dreams.

Without the courage, valor and singleness of purpose of our nation's veterans, the values that have always made it possible for us to meet new challenges, and move forward as a nation, would have been lost.

The freedoms that so many Americans enjoy did not come cheaply. They were paid for with the flesh and blood of American servicemen and women, and with the tears of those whose lives were changed forever by the loss of a loved one.

Memorial Day is a day of opportunity to give thanks for all that we are blessed with. It should also be a day that we rededicate ourselves to our country and to America's living veterans and their families in memory of the sacrifices they and others have made.

It is a responsibility with which we all are charged -- to do our best to repay the debt that is owed to those who have presented us with our most precious gift ... freedom. Each year we give this tribute
Out of thankfulness and love
For your loyalty and courage
Virtues that set you above.

MEDITATION **SUSAN KRAMER**

We'll never forget you gave your all
That others can be free
You paid the ultimate earthly price
Immortal you will ever be.

We walk the byways, streets of towns
Country lanes, through parks
At ease, at peace, possible because
Of missions upon which you embarked.

When there is no setting sun
And tides stretch out o'er all the land
No birds to fly, no songs to sing
Then we'll come and take your hand.

For now we won't forget
An emptiness your parting left
You gave your life in freedom's call
In God's eyes you're ever blessed.

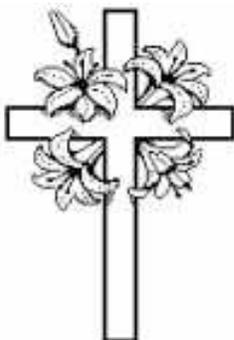
PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, we think of how they have followed in the footsteps of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please hold our service men and women in Your strong arms. Cover them with Your sheltering grace and presence as they stand in the gap for our protection.

We also remember the families of our troops, and ask for Your unique blessings to fill their homes with Your peace, provision and strength to fill their lives.

May the members of our armed forces be filled with courage to face each day and may they trust in Your mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus Who showed us how to live and to love. Amen.



Lord, bless and reward those who have died and give courage and strength to those who have been injured. May Your mercy rest on them all.

WHAT HEROES GAVE

Each donned their uniform to be
Defenders of our liberty
Their mission sure, their spirits bright
Guard freedom's home, be brave to fight
One final day each faced their call
Each gave their best enduring all
We'll never know what they went through
But know they loved this country true
Deep down inside we should all feel
What heroes gave, their cost so real
We must stay thankful, grateful of
The gift of freedom through their love
Their loved ones bore the gravest pain
What we can't know, some now sustain
To God I pray their pain will cease
And each will find long-lasting peace
Remember this from year to year
What heroes gave – shan't disappear
We'll never let their special day
Their time for honor slip away
These brave fought for a nation free
If not for them, where would we be?

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HYM N AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law.
O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.



Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us to educate for peace in our world.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!