

## MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

A SUPPLEMENT OF THE Journal Review

# Memorial Day Services - Monday, May 30<sup>TH</sup> HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED



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# In memory of 'Decoration Day'

I don't recall my parents ever using the term "Memorial Day," except when referring to the Indianapolis 500-mile race.

May 30 was "Decoration Day." Although Indiana, along with most other states, had recognized Memorial Day as a holiday since the 1890s, the United States Congress would not make it an official national holiday until 1971.

At the same time, the day of commemoration was moved from May 30 to the last Monday in May and designated by an act of Congress to be a day for honoring military personnel who have died in the service of our country.

I suppose my family called the day "Decoration Day" because — like many Southern Indiana residents — our ancestors had migrated here from Virginia and the Carolinas, via Kentucky, in the early to mid-19th Century.

Decoration Day had been observed on May 30 in many parts of the South all the way back to colonial times. The day was not mainly focused at the time on honoring fallen soldiers. The focus was on families in general and on remembering and honoring relatives buried in private and church cemeteries.

Each May, families and congregations mowed, cleaned and "decorated" the cemeteries. The headstones of deceased family members and friends were scrubbed. On May 30, family members brought flowers to the graves and at many church cemeteries members came together for a worship service and a meal.

At the end of the American Civil War, various groups in various states independently began promoting the day as a time to honor soldiers and sailors who had been killed in battle.

No one knows for sure who coined the term "Memorial Day."

Some researchers say Southern women in several states formed organizations to honor their fallen sons and husbands and overlaid the name on the already established Decoration Day.

In addition, one of the first "memorial" commemorations came in May 1865 when free African-Americans in Charleston, SC, came together to rebury former Union prisoners of war in a cemetery created to honor their fight against slavery.

Memorial Day, as a day set aside by law to remember and honor those men and women who died in the service of our country, remains today as one of our nation's primary holidays. That is as it should be.

The observance of what was once Decoration Day — a day to honor friends and loved ones just because they were our friends and loved ones — has meanwhile declined.

Of course, many families and individuals — particularly those in rural communities — still "decorate" family graves on Memorial Day. But any observer with more than a few decades of memory can hardly deny the practice is greatly diminished.

The meticulously trimmed grass, scrubbed tombstones and a sea of flowers I recall from my childhood in my own family cemetery in Johnson County are becoming more a memory than a reality.

My parents and older relatives once took part in a family association that met every year to organize and financially contribute to the maintenance of our cemetery. Each year's meeting was followed by a family reunion and a "pitch-in" meal.

Today, flowers are few. Some years the grass in the cemetery is not even mowed by Memorial Day. The possibility that younger generations will carry on family traditions of Decoration Day appears to be remote.

And, I must admit, I do not visit the cemetery or "decorate" family graves as often as I once did — at any of the cemeteries where my family members are interred.

Maybe Decoration Day has just run its course in any form not connected to honoring our military. And I suppose reasons go beyond the knee-jerk charges from many old curmudgeons that "young people today have no respect."

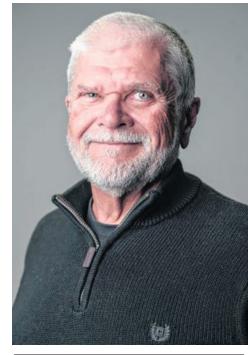
Changing burial practices certainly have played a part. Cremations now make up nearly 60 percent of the final arrangements of Americans, according to the Cremation Association of North America. That compares to just 3.6 percent in 1960. (Where do you go to honor ashes scattered in the wind?)

Declining participation in organized religion also likely plays a role, along with the closing of many small, rural churches.

Population mobility may be another reason. Many people no longer live in places where generations of their families are buried.

Some say weakening of family bonds is another.

Whatever the cause, rituals are important. Nations build unity around them. I fear the loss of Decoration Day may be the loss of something larger than the simple act of placing flowers on a loved one's grave.



Bud Herron is a retired editor and newspaper publisher who lives in Columbus. He served as publisher of The Republic from 1998 to 2007.





# Honoring Their Service & Sacrifice



Our respect and gratitude will forever be with our fallen military heroes and their families. Their service and sacrifice are beyond measure, and we will never forget their dedication to our country and our freedom.

To all the brave men and women who serve in uniform today, we thank you for your commitment to preserving freedom at home and around the world.

You are an inspiration to all of us, and you make us proud to be Americans.

We salute you and your families, and pray for your safe return home.



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# Honoring the Military Service of Native Americans

(StatePoint) Washington, D.C. is a city filled with monuments and memorials celebrating those whose life's work was in service to the nation. Some of the most visited memorials in the city honor veterans and the sacrifices they have made in service to the United States.

A full weekend of events honoring Native veterans who have served the nation in the U.S. Armed Forces will be taking place soon and event organizers encourage those who wish to participate to make their plans now. The focal point of these events occurs on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, when the National Museum of the American Indian dedicates a new memorial -- the National Native American Veterans Memorial.

The memorial, which sits on the grounds of the museum within sight of the U.S. Capitol Building, was commissioned by Congress to give "all Americans the opportunity to learn

of the proud and courageous tradition of service of Native Americans in the Armed Forces of the United States." Native Americans have served in every major military conflict in the United States since the Revolutionary War. This is the first national landmark in Washington, D.C. to focus on the contributions of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians who have served in the military.

Designed by Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma), a multimedia artist, retired forensic artist and Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, the memorial features an elevated stainless steel circle resting on a carved stone drum. It also incorporates water for sacred ceremonies, benches for gatherings and four lances where veterans, family members, tribal leaders and others can tie cloths for prayers and healing.

"The dedication of this memorial is an opportunity to gather and reflect on

the extraordinary service and sacrifice of Native veterans and their families," said Cynthia Chavez Lamar (San Felipe Pueblo, Hopi, Tewa and Navajo), the museum's director. "I hope everyone will join us for this momentous occasion, so together we can offer them our thanks for their contributions to our country."

The dedication ceremony will take place on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. as part of a three-day event (Nov. 11-13) to honor Native veterans. It begins with a Native veterans procession followed by the dedication ceremony. Native veterans who would like to participate in the procession can register to participate now via the museum's website. Following the ceremony, visitors will be able to visit the memorial and the museum, which will remain open until 8 p.m. on Nov. 11.

The dedication ceremony will also be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person.

Throughout the weekend, the museum will host special programming in honor of the dedication of the memorial, including hand-on activities, films, performances and a veterans hospitality suite.

Visitors can also explore the exhibition "Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces," which tells personal stories of Native Americans, Native Hawaiians and Alaska Native veterans who have served in the U.S. armed forces for more than 250 years, and brings long overdue recognition to their contributions.

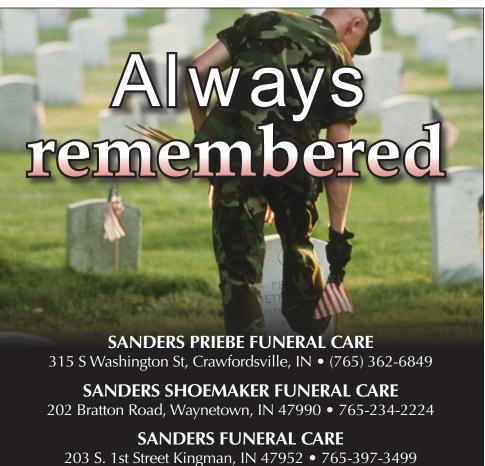
More information about the dedication of the National Native American Veterans Memorial can be found by visiting americanindian.si.edu.

PHOTO SOURCE: Alan Karchmer for the National Museum of the American Indian









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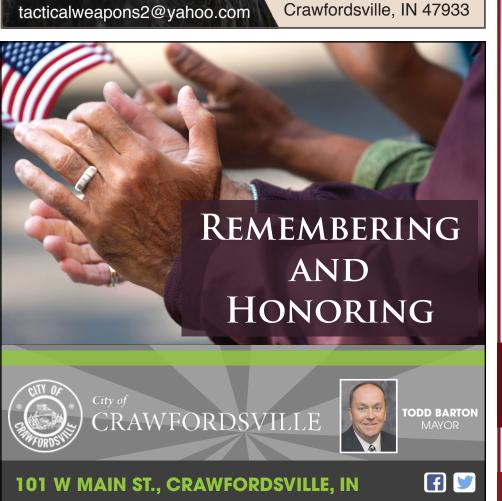
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## How Memorial Day and Veterans Day are different

Both Memorial Day and Veterans Day pay tribute to the military community. However, these patriotic holidays are often confused with one another. To better honor each day's true meaning, here's what you should know.

#### **Memorial Day**

Memorial Day is observed to honor soldiers who died in military service protecting and serving their country. Its origins date back to after the Civil War. In 1866, residents of Waterloo, New York started decorating graves of soldiers with spring flowers. In fact, Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day.

#### **Veterans Day**

Veterans Day pays tribute to Americans who served or currently serve their country. The holiday is held every year on November 11, marking the anniversary of the end of World War I. Initially called Armistice Day, the federal government changed the name of the event to Veterans Day in 1954.

#### Ways to celebrate **Memorial Day**

Many Americans celebrate the beginning of summer on Memorial Day with parties and barbecues. However, to honor the day's true meaning, you

- Hang a flag outside your house
- Attend a Memorial Day parade
- Observe a moment of silence at 3 p.m.
- Visit a military gravesite
- Watch the National Memorial Day Concert

Memorial Day is always observed on the last Monday in May. This year the holiday takes place on May 30.

#### Did you know?

Memorial Day has its own flag etiquette. At sunrise, flags should be raised quickly to full-staff, then slowly lowered to half-staff. This is to honor soldiers who fell in the line of duty. At noon, the flag should be raised to full-staff. This is to salute all who once served.



## Explore these careers in the military

The military is essential to protecting the country's interests both domestically and abroad. Military service members help to keep the peace, assist civil service personnel and defend the nation when necessary. Even though some people enlist in the military for a set period of time, many spend their entire careers in the service.

Some people may be surprised to discover the military offers work in many different fields. Chances are if it can be found outside of the military world, it's also something that can be done within the various branches of the military.

#### Accounting officers

Accountants and auditors scrutinize the spending of billions of dollars by the military. These people maintain records in accordance with policies and procedures. They also advise leaders on financial and accounting matters.

#### **Administrative support** specialists

These individuals perform various tasks, which include information recording, organization, clerical needs, scheduling meetings, making travel arrangements, and more.

#### Advanced practice nurses

Nurses are needed in many different situations and they are coveted by the military. Nurses may specialize as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, or nurse anesthetists when caring for the wounded or assisting in disaster relief. Nurses provide medical care to military members as well.

#### Air traffic controllers

Air traffic controllers are best known at commercial airports, but they also play essential roles in the military. Every day, hundreds of military aircraft take off and land around the world and air traffic controllers direct their movements.

#### **Cyber-operations specialists**

The internet and cyberspace has changed how the world operates in modern times. The military has resources to develop and maintain cyberspace initiatives, including securing military networks and defending the nation against cyber attacks. Cyber-operations specialists lead the call to utilize devices and systems to protect data.

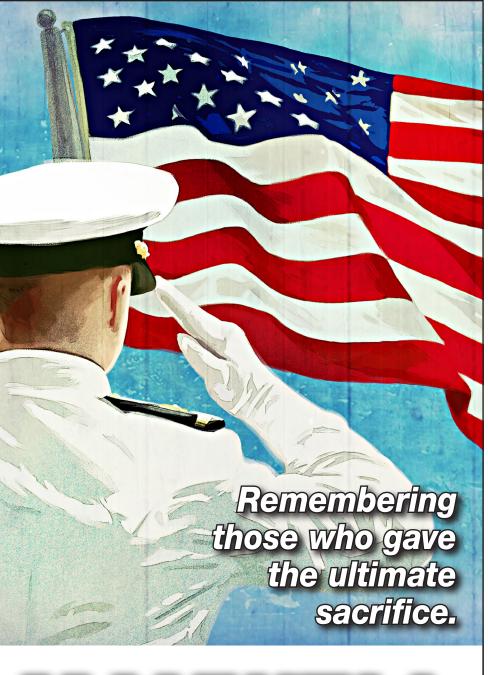
#### **Construction specialists/** managers

These professionals perform and manage the construction of bridges, buildings, utility systems, bunkers, and much more for a variety of military operations.

#### **Motor transport operators**

Vehicles move equipment, supplies and troops all over, and the military needs operators who can not only drive, but also perform preventive maintenance on light- and heavy-duty vehi-

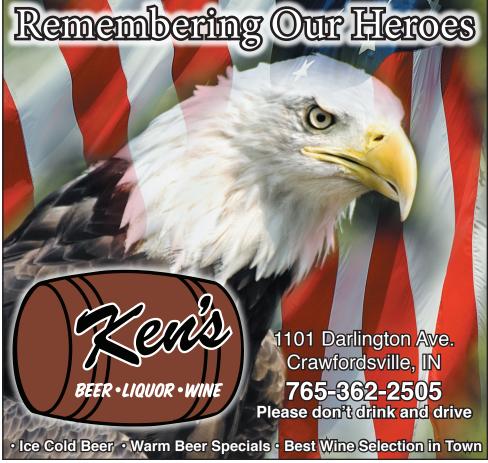
The military offers a wealth of career paths for enlisted, active duty or reserve personnel. These positions engage various skills and can make for rewarding careers.





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# MEMORIAL Remembering those who served

## 5 ways to share Memorial Day with your kids

Memorial Day, which falls on May 25 this year, is an ideal occasion for kids to learn about the brave men and women who died serving their country. Here are five ways you can pay tribute to our national heroes with your kids on Memorial Day.

- 1. Visit a cemetery or memorial. While not every community has a veteran cemetery, most have a memorial to fallen soldiers. Visiting such a location with your kids is a good way to honor the fallen and open a dialogue on the topic of service.
- **2. Attend a parade.** If your children have never seen soldiers before, attending a Memorial Day parade will provide an opportunity for them to observe men and women in uniform. If there aren't any parades in your region, you can watch one on television.
- **3. Write to active service members.** Help your kids make cards, draw pictures or write letters for soldiers deployed overseas. Active service members will appreciate the gesture and your kids will become more familiar with the importance of supporting our troops.
- **4. Learn about military history.** Watch a documentary or read a book with your kids to teach them about the role America and its military have played in global history.

**5. Share a meal.** Make a Memorial Day themed meal with your kids. Little ones are sure to enjoy decorating a star-spangled cake, and if you're planning on hosting family and friends, ask your children to help set the table, decorate the house or greet your guests.

While it's become associated with sales and celebrations, it's important to keep the origins of Memorial Day alive for younger generations. This holiday is an ideal time to teach your children about the sacrifices our service members have made.





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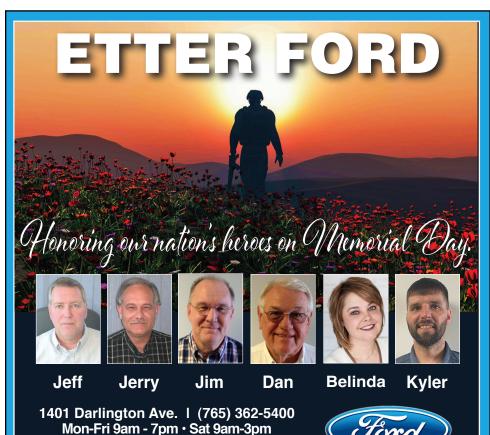


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### **MEMORIAL DAY:**

# Where does the tradition of decorating graves come from?

Memorial Day is a time for honoring the men and women who gave their lives while serving in the United States military. Many Americans across the country observe this solemn occasion by visiting cemeteries and decorating veterans' graves with flags and flowers. In fact, Memorial Day used to be called Decoration Day.

Decoration Day began several years after the Civil War ended; a conflict that claimed more American lives than any other war in history and led to the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries.

Though it's unclear where exactly the tradition of adorning soldiers' graves with flowers originated, the city that gets the credit is Waterloo, New York. (The town was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1966.)

Starting in May 1866, Waterloo began hosting an annual community celebration honoring fallen soldiers. During the event, businesses closed and citizens decorated soldiers' graves with flowers.

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan called for a national day of remembrance at the end of May to honor soldiers who lost their lives in the war. On May 30, 1868, the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield — later our 20th president — made a speech to a crowd of over 5,000 people at Arlington National Cemetery where 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were buried.

After the First World War, Decoration Day was renamed Memorial Day and became a time to honor the American lives lost in all military conflicts, not just the Civil War. In 1968, Congress passed a law declaring Memorial Day a federal holiday to be celebrated each year on the last Monday of May.





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## How will you observe this Memorial Day?

Memorial Day has been celebrated in various forms since the Civil War, but it wasn't until 1971 that it was established as a federal holiday held on the last Monday of May in honor of those who have given their lives in service. Here are a few ways that you can commemorate the men and women who have fallen in action this Memorial Day:

- Observe a moment of silence. President Bill Clinton established 3 p.m. local time as the national moment of remembrance to be observed in silence each Memorial Day.
- If you know someone in the military or have had someone close to you give their life in service, visit a memorial or military cemetery with your whole family to remember their sacrifice.
- Fly the flag at half-mast. Memorial Day is a national day of mourning and it is traditional to fly the American flag at half-mast for the occasion.
- Organize a fundraiser. Even if you don't personally know anyone in uniform, that doesn't mean you can't participate in the holiday. Raising money for our servicemen and servicewomen is a tangible and much-needed way to support those who risk their lives for our safety.

Although it's important to instill in every American the gravity and importance of the sacrifice our military make for us every day, be sure to celebrate them with joy as well. Being safe and joyful with friends and family is what freedom is all about.











#### **MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES**

#### **CRAWFORDSVILLE**

American Legion Post 72 Honor Guard will be doing rifle salutes and taps at the following cemeteries on Monday:

- Oak Hill South, 9:30 a.m.
- Oak Hill on Grant Avenue, 9:45 a.m.
  - Old Town, 10 a.m.
  - Calvary, 10:15 a.m.
- Oak Hill North, 11 a.m. General Wayne Black will be the guest speaker and the public is invited to Post 72 after the service for lunch.

#### **NEW ROSS**

• 10 a.m. Monday. In case of inclement weather the service will be conducted at the New Ross Christian Church

VFW Post 3284, Roachdale will conduct services at the following cemeteries on Monday:

- Blakesburg, 8:15 a.m.
- Bainbridge, 8:45 a.m.
- Clear Creek (Heritage Lake), 9:15 a.m.
  - New Maysville, 9:45 a.m.
  - North Salem, 10:15 a.m.
    - Barnard, 10:45 a.m.
    - Roachdale, 11 a.m.
    - Ladoga, 11:30 a.m.
  - Roachdale Library, Noon







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