

Levingston would like to wish you all a special **Memorial Day**.

Please join me in thanking those men and women who paid the ultimate price for our freedom by honoring and keeping their legacy of liberty alive. Let us remember with gratitude the sacrifices of our nation's heroes.

In remembering the fallen patriots, we also recognize and honor their loved ones: spouses, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, and friends. Proper words do not exist for their sacrificial act, so let us live in gratitude each day for the precious gift of freedom that they have secured and sustained for us all.

Now, if you're like me, the older I get, the more I ponder the true meaning of why we celebrate different holidays. Especially those holidays that traditionally could be taken for granted.

So, on this **Memorial Day**, I thought it would be a good time to share a little about the true meaning of Memorial Day along with answering some common questions about this day we celebrate. I did share this same message last year but think that it is worth revisiting again this year. God Bless you all.

Mark

*The following is information gathered from – The Old Farmer's Almanac – Yankee Publishing, Inc. (last updated April 23, 2023) – This is a repeat of information from 2023, truncated, but I think it is still a good read for us all.*

## **Memorial Day** Facts, Traditions, Meaning, and More

### **When Is Memorial Day celebrated?**

This U.S. federal holiday is observed on the **last Monday of May** to honor the men and women who have died while serving in the military. It was formerly known as Decoration Day.

### **What's the Difference Between Memorial Day and Veterans Day?**

On both Memorial Day and Veterans Day, it's customary to spend time remembering and honoring the countless veterans who have served the United States throughout the country's history. However, there is a distinction between the two holidays:

- **Memorial Day** commemorates the men and women who **died** while serving in the United States Armed Forces, particularly those who died in battle or because

of wounds sustained in battle. In other words, the purpose of Memorial Day is to memorialize the veterans who made the **ultimate sacrifice** for their country.

You'll find that some veterans find it dismaying when they are thanked on this day. It is a time for remembering those who lost their lives and could not come home. We might consider how we can support and safeguard their grieving families and loved ones who are left behind, as well as reflecting on why we—the living—have the luxury and freedom that we enjoy today.

- **Veterans Day** is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL who served in the United States Armed Forces—in wartime or peacetime—regardless of whether they died or survived. Veterans Day is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls.

### **Flying Old Glory**

Flag etiquette on Memorial Day is unique. At sunrise, flags are to be raised to full staff briskly, then lowered to half-staff position, where they will remain until noon.

Traditionally, on Memorial Day (U.S.), volunteers often place small American flags on each grave site at national cemeteries. A national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time. Consider visiting a local cemetery to place flags; many organizations would be grateful for volunteers. Contact your local American Legion post, Daughters of the American Revolution, or Boy or Girl Scouts troops.



### **Memorial Day Weekend: The Unofficial Start of Summer**

Memorial Day tends to mark the unofficial start of summer for many Americans (though the season really begins with the Summer Solstice in mid-June).