

HEAR MINISTRIES

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE (Excerpts) for May 25th, 2025

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"Freedom is not free," said by the late U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Paul W. Airey, a Medal of Honor recipient. This statement holds true for the sacrifices that our nation's heroes made to ensure that we enjoy the freedoms we have today. **On this Memorial Day, let us pause and reflect on the valor of our brave service members who paid the ultimate price to defend our country and the ideals we hold dear.** Memorial Day is more than just a long weekend or a day off work; it's a time to remember, honor, and celebrate the lives and legacies of the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country.

Memorial Day, **originally known as Decoration Day**, has its roots in the aftermath of the Civil War. The **first Decoration Day was observed on May 30, 1868**, when General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic declared that the day should be set aside to decorate the graves of the Union soldiers who died in the war. **By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day had become a national event**, with many states and communities observing the day in various ways. In **1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday** to be observed on the last Monday in May. This change allowed for a three-day weekend and led to more widespread participation in Memorial Day events.

Today, Memorial Day is a time to remember and honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. **It's a day to pay tribute to their courage, sacrifice, and selflessness. It's also a day to reflect on the importance of freedom and the values that our soldiers fought and died for.** As we observe this Memorial Day, let us remember the legacy of our fallen heroes and express our gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

While **Memorial Day** is a time to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives for our country, it **can also serve as a source of inspiration and**

motivation for the living. By reflecting on the sacrifices and values of our fallen heroes, **we can gain a renewed sense of purpose and meaning in our own lives.** One way that Memorial Day can inspire the living is by **reminding us of the importance of service and sacrifice.** Veterans and their families have shown us that even in the face of great adversity and loss, it is possible to turn grief into positive action. Many veterans have started charities, mentored youth, or advocated for social justice as a way to honor the memory of their fallen comrades and to make a positive impact on their communities.

Let us remember that Memorial Day is not just a day off from work or a chance to have a barbecue. It is a solemn occasion to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, and to honor their legacy by living our own lives with purpose and meaning. So, I urge you all to take action this Memorial Day and beyond, by honoring the brave and inspiring the living. Whether it's visiting a cemetery, laying a wreath, attending a parade, volunteering at a veterans' organization, or sharing your own story of service and sacrifice, **let us all do our part to honor the memory of our fallen heroes and to make a positive impact in our communities.** As General George S. Patton once said, "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived." **Let us be grateful for the brave men and women who gave their lives for our country, and let us strive to live up to their example of service and sacrifice.**