

What Memorial Day Means to Me

Memorial Day is an American holiday on the last Monday of May that honors men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. This is the official definition of Memorial Day, however, I believe Memorial Day is a day to say "Thank You" and to acknowledge the ultimate sacrifices military service members have made to make our country free and safe for future generations.

I remember being awed by the Vietnam Memorial on a family trip to Washington, D.C. I watched strangers, taking a piece of paper, placing it over a name and rubbing the name with a pencil to transfer it onto the paper. The walls that looked as if they went on for miles were full of so many names of Americans who never came home to their family and friends. Their legacy lived on this wall which honored them with love and pride. I felt sad. Then I saw my reflection on the wall as it was like a mirror in my soul. What I can do to show my appreciation? First, always remember. Second, give thanks. Finally, cherish and continue to make our country great. So every day not just on Memorial day, I pray and give appreciation to the brave service members who fought to the very end.

Memorial day is a day for admiration towards those that made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. Memorial Day means more than just honoring those who died for their country on that day, to me, it should be a reminder that we should appreciate these people every single day of our lives. We should remember that every single day we go to school someone out there fought so that we could have normal lives. We must carry on their legacy by honoring our freedoms and doing our part for our country.

So I suppose for me Memorial Day isn't just "a day" for recognizing someone's sacrifices but rather cherishing their memory everyday for the rest of our lives because they have certainly earned that respect.