

Extracted from St John Vianney May 29, 2011 Bulletin

Memorial Day: We Remember by Carl Beyer and friends

From Wikipedia.org: *"Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May (May 30 in 2011). Formerly known as Decoration Day, it commemorates U.S. soldiers who died while serving in the military services. First enacted to honor Union and Confederate soldiers following the American Civil War, it was extended after World War I to honor Americans who have died in all wars."*

Let us never forget those who Gave The Ultimate Sacrifice for Our Freedom. We remember. How could we possibly forget? The freedom we enjoy was and is earned for us by these brave men and women of the U.S. armed forces. Words seem inadequate in explaining the gratitude to which we owe these individuals, which mirrors, as best a human's thoughts and actions can, the sacrifice made by our Lord, the God-made-Man, to ensure OUR ultimate freedom. Try imagining yourself in their shoes/boots. Would you, in their circumstances, choose to put your life on the line so that your fellow citizens could enjoy the God-given right of freedom? Yes, words are inadequate.

Pause, stop and pray for the souls of those we honor. We know these men and women were not superheroes. No, they were just everyday folks like you and me who stepped up to the plate in the situations in which they found themselves and gave their all. They were sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers. I am sure many had plans for their futures which were never fulfilled. I pray they all had a firm belief in our Lord and His promise, or, at very least, foxhole conversions!

As kids, on Memorial Day we always visited the cemetery where my father was buried. I have very vivid memories of the flags flying over each of those graves. It had a profound effect, and I am sure it in some way guided my decision to join the military. By the grace of God, during the four years I served, there was no military action, so I was not asked to make The Ultimate Sacrifice. Take yourself and your kids to the cemetery or Veterans' Memorials this weekend, so that they may experience the importance of, and honor the celebration, of Memorial Day.

Most of us, when we think about Memorial Day, simply think of it as the official kick-off of summer. Pools are opened, schools are out, camping is in full force, and we are given a three-day-weekend. Enjoy. This is the freedom which was purchased for you by our men and women in uniform. Spend time with your family and friends knowing you live in the greatest country on God's green Earth.

Please, pray for our leaders, that God will grant them the wisdom to wisely decide when to put our warriors into situations in which they may be asked to make The Ultimate Sacrifice. Pray that never may they allow the lives of these men and women to be squandered for political purposes rather than for the purpose of fighting evil. These decisions are difficult and very complex to understand, so our prayers for our leaders are so very important. Regardless of your political leaning, all of our leaders deserve our prayers - that God grants them wisdom and guidance.

Go forth and enjoy Memorial Day. Go forth and pray for the souls of our fallen warriors. Go forth and pray for our leaders. God Bless you all.