

May 25, 2026

★ MEMORIAL DAY ★

Remembering the brave

A supplement of the **Journal Review**

Memorial Day Services • Monday, May 25TH **HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED**



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MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

CRAWFORDSVILLE

The Byron Cox Post 72 Honor Guard will give a rifle salute and taps at the following cemeteries on Monday, May 26:

Oak Hill South — 9:15 a.m.

Oak Hill on Grant — 9:30 a.m.

Old Town — 9:45 a.m.

Calvary — 10 a.m.

Oak Hill North — 10:15 a.m.

The Memorial Day Service will be held at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park.

NEW ROSS

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

WAYNETOWN

9 a.m. Sunday, Waynetown Masonic Cemetery.

HILLSBORO

11 a.m. Sunday, Rose Hill Cemetery

VEEDERSBURG

7:30-9 a.m. Monday for annual Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast in the community room of the Veedersburg City Building, 100 S. Main St.

10 a.m. Monday, Veedersburg Fire Station overlooking War Memorial Park

ROACHDALE

The VFW Post 3284 at Roachdale will be at these cemeteries on Monday, May 26 to conduct Memorial Day Services:

Blakesburg — 8:15 a.m.

Bainbridge — 8:45 a.m.

Clear Creek (Heritage Lake) — 9:10 a.m.

New Maysville — 9:45 a.m.

North Salem — 10:15 a.m.

Barnard — 10:45 a.m.

Roachdale Cemetery — 11 a.m.

Ladoga — 11:30 a.m.

Roachdale Library — 12 p.m.



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Seven Ways to Honor Active Military & Veterans



A major portion of the North American population is comprised of people who are actively serving in the Armed Forces or those who once did. USAFacts reports the military included 2,079,142 military personnel and 778,539 civilians as of September 2023. In 2023, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 15.8 million veterans in the U.S. In Canada, the 2021 Census of Population found that 97,625 Canadians were serving in the Canadian Armed Forces while 461,240 Canadians were characterized as veterans.

Military men and women work tirelessly and selflessly to defend their countries' ideals and freedoms. Too often military members do not get the attention and acclaim they deserve. The month of May, which celebrates Military Appreciation Month as well as Memorial Day, is a perfect time of year to honor those who have served in various ways.

- **Improve the community.**

Veterans want the communities they call home to be the best they can be, and that can be achieved by community members pitching in to improve their towns and cities. Doing something honorable, like establishing a park in honor of veterans, can be a great way to improve a community and honor service personnel at the same time.

- **Support veteran-friendly policies.** By supporting policies and organizations that prioritize veterans' rights, individuals are showing veterans they care. Policies that

ensure veterans have access to services they need warrant everyone's support.

- **Donate to a nonprofit that supports veterans.** Many charities do important work to bridge the gap in care or services needed by veterans or active military members. Using hard-earned dollars to fund these nonprofits is money well spent.

- **Ask a veteran to be a keynote speaker.** Schools or businesses can ask military members to come in and speak to groups about their experiences. Newspapers and other local publications can write about veterans and share their stories.

- **Pay respects to the country.**

A simple way to honor veterans is to embrace and showcase national pride. Flying the country's flag in front of homes and businesses is a first step. Attending patriotic events, such as parades and memorials, also is a way to honor veterans and others.

- **Keep cemeteries clean.** Respect the hallowed land that is the final resting place for veterans by volunteering to tidy up around headstones and other markers. On key calendar dates, such as Memorial Day, help with the placement of flags on every veteran's grave as a token of thanks for their sacrifice.

- **Volunteer at a VA hospital.**

Now more than ever VA hospitals may be short-staffed and have need of more volunteers to help with various services. Volunteer work can include visiting patients or running recreational activities, both of which can boost the spirits of veterans receiving care.

Honoring veterans and other military personnel doesn't have to be difficult. Beyond a simple "thank you," there are many steps people can take to show their gratitude to active military personnel and veterans.

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The Roles & Responsibilities of Various Military Members

Reports from the United States Central Intelligence Agency indicate the country has the third largest active military in the world. As of September 2023, the U.S. military consisted of just under three million people, more than two million of whom are military personnel (just under 800,000 are civilian employees).

The U.S. military is made up of seven branches: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and the National Guard. No two branches of the military perform the same functions, and there are various leadership positions within the branches. The following rundown of various military positions can help Americans gain a greater understanding of the individuals who work to keep the country safe each day.

- **Secretary of Defense:** The Secretary of Defense is a unique position in America, as laws designed to ensure civilian control of the military mandate that the Secretary of Defense cannot have served as an active-duty commissioned officer in the military in the preceding seven years (ten years in the case of a general). The Secretary of Defense is the head of the Department of the Defense and the secretary's authority over the military is second only to the president's.

- **Chief of Naval Operations (CNO):** The CNO is the highest-ranking officer in the United States Navy. The CNO is an admiral



and is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which is the body of the most senior uniformed officers within the Department of Defense. Though the CNO is a significant position, the person in the role does not have operational command over naval forces.

- **Four-star General:** General is a title familiar to civilians and armed forces personnel alike. A Four-star General in the U.S. Army is a senior level commissioned officer who typically has more than 30 years of experience and service. General is the highest rank normally available

in the U.S. Army, though a General of the Army may be named in time of war where the commanding officer must be equal or of higher rank than individuals commanding armies from other nations.

- **General (Air Force):** General also is the highest rank in the United States Air Force. According to Executivegov.com, four-star generals in the Air Force take charge of command positions in NATO, Numbered Air Forces, and the Chief of Staff.

- **Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC):** The CMC is the

highest-ranking Marine Officer and is also a four-star general. The CMC is on the Joint Chiefs of Staff and reports directly to the Secretary of the Navy. The CMC transmits the plans and recommendations of the Marine Corps to the Secretary and advises on those plans.

These are just a handful of the influential positions established to ensure the U.S. military can effectively fulfill its mission to keep the country safe each and every day.

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Five Interesting Facts About Memorial Day

Memorial Day is celebrated at the end of May each year to honor those who lost their lives while serving in the Armed Forces. Memorial Day, the origins of which can be traced to the aftermath of the American Civil War, holds deep historical significance, and the following are five interesting facts about the holiday.

1. The holiday began as Decoration Day. Before the official establishment of Memorial Day, communities began holding spring tributes to fallen soldiers, decorating soldiers' graves with flowers to pay respects. In 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization

for northern Civil War veterans, officially proclaimed May 30 as Decoration Day. War.gov says that graves at Arlington National Cemetery continued to be adorned in the same fashion they were back in the 1860s.

2. Memorial Day became an official holiday in 1968. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Memorial Day into law on June 28, 1968, officially marking Memorial Day as a national holiday. However, two years prior, he signed a proclamation officially declaring Waterloo, New York, as the birthplace of Memorial Day. The town was the first to honor fallen soldiers, and has

been featuring a formal, community-wide event since May 5, 1866.

3. Blooming flowers have a place in Memorial Day history. Historians believe that the original choice of May 30 for Decoration Day was not due to any specific battle. Rather, it was a day when no particular conflict had taken place and was the time of year when flowers would be in full bloom. So on May 30 there would be plenty of flowers across the country to decorate soldiers' graves.

4. All fallen veterans were eventually honored on Memorial Day. Many early Memorial Day iterations honored those who died

during the American Civil War. After World War I, however, the Memorial Day holiday was expanded to honor all American military personnel who died during any war.

5. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act changed when Memorial Day is commemorated. Memorial Day once was commemorated on May 30 regardless of the day of the week. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, moving Memorial Day to the last Monday in May to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. This change went into effect in 1971.

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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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Honor Veterans This Memorial Day



Memorial Day often is celebrated with the excitement of a long weekend and the prospect of firing up the grill for a backyard barbecue. But Memorial Day also is a time to reflect on the men and women who gave their lives to defend American freedom.

Memorial Day was established to honor individuals who died while serving the United States in the Armed Forces. Memorial Day is a time to reflect on the sacrifices of the fallen heroes who dedicated and lost their lives in the pursuit of service. The following are some ways to honor those sacrifices this Memorial Day.

- **Observe the National Moment of Remembrance.** The National Moment of Remembrance is an annual one-minute moment of silence that takes place at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day. Established by Congress in 2000, this unifying moment encourages Americans to pause their activities and reflect on the high cost of freedom. The time is significant, as it is a period when most people are enjoying Memorial Day festivities that were made possible by the sacrifices of Armed Forces personnel.

- **Honor the American flag.** Memorial Day features a unique flag protocol. To properly honor the fallen, the flag should be flown at half-staff until noon. Afterwards, it should be raised to the top of the staff for the remainder of the day, according to the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. The tran-

sition marks the nation's mourning in the morning hours and then the legacy of fallen veterans later in the afternoon.

- **Coordinate flag placement for cemeteries.** Organizations like Flags for Fallen Vets and scouting groups make an effort to place small American flags at the grave sites of deceased veterans. Many cemeteries feature sections exclusively for veterans. Similarly, fam-

ilies can visit cemeteries and leave a penny or a stone on the headstone of a veteran, which shows others that someone visited to pay their respects.

- **Talk to the next generation.** To ensure that the memories of fallen soldiers do not fade into obscurity, living veterans can speak with youth about their service experiences and those of their fallen friends. Schools or local munic-

ipalities can organize speaking engagements.

Memorial Day is much more than sales at the furniture store or a day spent manning the grill. It is a day to remember and honor service members who never made it home to see their great country again. Ensuring that their efforts are remembered, and giving thanks to all veterans, is a great way to commemorate Memorial Day.




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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 could:

- 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?



According to the Department of Defense (DOD), the United States Armed Forces had 1.33 million people identified as active troops as of 2025. The DOD reported that an additional 770,118 people were serving in the National Guard or as reserves as of 2025. Active-duty Armed Forces personnel in the United States are spread across six main service branches: the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, and the Space Force. As of December 2025, the Army had more active-duty troops (447,455) than any other branch of the American military.

The Navy (339,602) had the second most active-duty troops, while the Air Force (315,317) was the third largest branch in terms of active-duty troops.

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.



*Remembering
those who
have served.*

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