

Memorial Day: Honor, Reflect and Remember

May 28, 2021

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Instead of blithely saying “Happy Memorial Day” I believe that the Memorial Day holiday should be a time of “reverence, introspection and reflection” as one of my veteran friends put it. This year added reflection is based on lessons learned from the Pandemic.

How Memorial Day Began

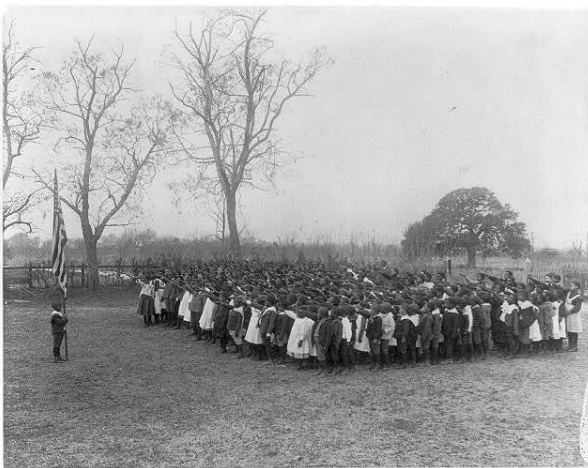
The custom of holding observances (including the laying of flowers on burial sites) to remember and honor those who gave their lives in military service goes back many hundreds, if not thousands, of years. In the United States, that custom has long since been formalized in the creation of Memorial Day (formerly known as Decoration Day), a federal holiday observed on the last Monday in May to remember the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Traditionally, every year the President of the United States (or, in his absence, another high-ranking government official) visits Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day to honor all those Americans who have died in military service to their country by participating in a symbolic wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.



In the spring of 1865, the Civil War finally ended after claiming more lives than any other conflict in U.S. history. To commemorate the lives lost in battle, Americans began holding tributes each spring during the late 1860s. They would decorate the graves of those who had died with flowers, leading to the day being referred to as Decoration Day.

General John A. Logan, leader of an organization of Northern Civil War veterans, designated May 30, 1868, as the first official Decoration Day with a strong speech on the importance of remembering those who had died defending the Union. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating, the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed.

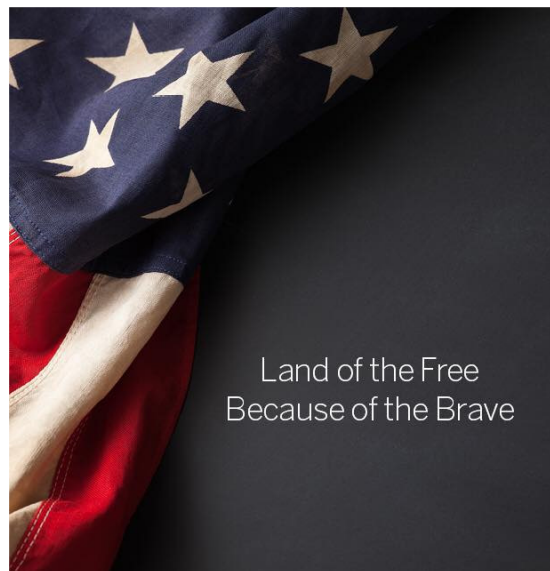


However, prior to that on May, 1, 1865 in Charleston, SC former slaves honored 257 dead Union Soldiers who had been buried in a mass grave in a Confederate prison camp. They dug up the bodies and worked for 2 weeks to give them a proper burial as gratitude for fighting for their freedom. They then held a parade of 10,000 people led by 2,800 African American children where they marched, sang and celebrated.

“The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.” - Benjamin Disraeli



Thank you to all who have served this country and protected its freedoms. And those who continue to do so.



I hope you enjoy time with your family and friends safely this holiday.

My staff and I deeply appreciate the continuing opportunity to work with you. Please let me know if you have any questions or requests. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Bonapart, JD, RFC, AIF®
Accredited Investment Fiduciary, President
Financial Security Planning Services, Inc.
520 Tamalpais Drive, Suites 103 & 104
Corte Madera, CA 94925
(415) 927-2555
www.FinancialSecurityPlanning.com
CA Insurance License No. 0808412

- Registered Representative with/and offers securities through Commonwealth Financial Network, member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor.
- Advisory services offered through Financial Security Planning Services, Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor, are separate and unrelated to Commonwealth Financial Network.
- Fixed insurance products and services offered through CES Insurance Agency.
- Indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Delivering financial confidence since 1992

