

#1



Memorial Day - Remembering People

Remembering is sometimes hard to do.

Three old sisters were living together.

The oldest sister got up to go to bed.

Half way up the stairs she stopped and asked "was I going up or was I coming down"

From the living room the youngest sister replied with a hint of aggravation: "You were going up to bed."

The second sister headed into the kitchen for a snack. Once in the kitchen she hollered back to her younger sister, who was still down stairs: "What did I come in here for?"

The younger sister responded: "You went in to make yourself a sandwich."

As she knocked on the wood of the end table she said: "I'm so glad I am not as forgetful as the both of you are."

Hearing the sound of someone knocking she got up, and walked over to the door, and said "Who is it?"

Remembering is sometimes hard to do.

Tomorrow is Memorial Day.

#2



It is a time for remembering people who were important in our lives.

Since 1971, Memorial Day has been observed annually on the last Monday in May.

The time was set aside for us to honor the nation's military personnel killed in wartime.

At first, it was called Decoration Day, because people decorated soldiers' graves with flowers and flags.

#3



Waterloo, New York, was the birthplace of Memorial Day.

On May 5, 1866, the people of Waterloo placed flowers on the graves of northern soldiers who had died in the Civil War.

In 1868, Major General John Logan declared May 30 as a day to honor soldiers who had died fighting for the North.

A lot of meaning is attached to decorating graves.

After World War I ended, in 1918, Decoration Day became a day to remember everyone who died fighting in U.S. wars.

Memorial Day is a day to remember.

We should never forget or devalue the sacrifice of our military personnel.

There are none so brave who fight and die for their country.

In times of war, we constantly hear of their great sacrifice.

For the almost four million people who visit annually, Arlington National Cemetery represents many different things. For some, it is a chance to walk among headstones that chronicle American History; for many, it is an opportunity to remember and honor the nation's war heroes; and for others, it is a place to say a last farewell during funeral services for a family member or friend.

CLICK

Over 5,400 are interred each day at Arlington National Cemetery. There are currently over 290,000 people interred there.

There are 130 national cemeteries. The largest is Calverton National Cemetery on Long Island.

#4



Riverhead National Cemetery conducts 7,000 burials each year.

We want to remember the thousands of military personnel and their families who have paid the ultimate price.

People Count

The American Military through several centuries has preserved liberty for United States citizens.

****CLICK HERE for VIDEO****

No one wants to die, and certainly not in battle.

From Valley Forge to Berlin...

From San Juan Hill to Heartbreak Ridge...

From Iwo Jima to Saigon, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan.

...the blood of American soldiers is permanently mingled with the soil of four continents and hundreds of islands.

They are all our heroes.

Some of you have served in the military.

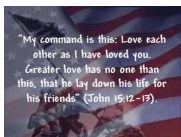
We want to honor you today.

We thank you for your sacrifice.

We thank you for making all of our lives easier.

We thank you for the freedoms we have.

#5



Do you understand these words of Jesus?

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:12-13).

#6



Memorial Day has become a time when we clarify our memory of relatives and friends.

It is difficult for some to remember those who have deceased.

Many of you have parents or loved ones who are deceased.

Some of you have unresolved emotional pain that you have attempted to either heal or avoid.

You have not got over the circumstances or situations that you faced.

Memorial Day Song/Show Presentation

You need healing over those memories.

It will help you to live without negatively influencing your relationships with your spouses and other relatives and friends.

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Paul intentionally calls our attention to the heroes of faith.

The thought of many of your deceased loved ones brings cherished memories.

You were blessed with loving, spiritual, responsible spouses, parents, and grand-parents.

You had many happy years together.

I thank God for those who have gone before us.

Every time some of them come to mind, a smile comes to my face.

My life has been enriched by their faithfulness to God, their goodness in life, and their kindness.

#7



In Hebrews 11, Paul went over the lists of heroes of faith.

He listed Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, and Samuel.

Then he remembered the many things they did that impact and influence faith in people today.

They conquered kingdoms

They administered justice

They gained promises

They shut mouths of lions

They quenched the fury of the flames

They escaped the edge of the sword

Their weakness was turned to strength

We could easily begin naming a variety of ordinary people who have spurred our faith on.

God has done many extraordinary things through people who are just like you and me.

The secret of living a life that makes a difference is realizing that it is not what you do for yourself, but what you allow God to do for others through you.

This is how we make a difference in this world, and how we make a lasting impact.

“May all who come behind us find us faithful,

May the fire of our devotion light their way.

May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe,

And the lives we live inspire them to obey.

Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful!”

I believe we are surrounded by a greater cloud of witnesses than we will ever know until we stand together around the throne of our Lord and God.

#8



We are truly blessed by the faith, testimonies, and sacrifices of those who went before us.

In Psalm 71:17-18, the Psalmist said: “Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come”

"Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful!"

As we celebrate this Memorial Day, there is one person that deserves our praise.

Thank God for Jesus!

We must remember what Jesus Christ has done for us.

#9



Isaiah 53:4-6 (NIV) Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Don't ever forget those early days when you first learned about Christ.

Remember, He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because He knew the joy He would have afterward.

Remember, that He has ascended to the throne of Heaven to secure victory, and life for us.

Keep on remembering Jesus.

Remember, that He is coming again to receive us to Himself.

This is our hope and trust.

#10



1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NIV) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Every one of our loved ones and family who died with faith in Christ are going to arise.

This is going to be a great homecoming celebration.

What a day of rejoicing it will be.