

Let Us Not Forget

The memory of veterans is in the forefront today because it is important to not forget the commitment of people who have and continue to serve in our military. We especially remember those who sacrificed their life for our freedom. Just take a look at Arlington National Cemetery and you get a sense of the enormity of that sacrifice. Human life is the most any of us have to give.



Cross with display of service flags at the YMCA. Small American flags line the entrance to the Y. The American flag is flying at half-mast in honor of soldiers who gave their life in service.

For deceased veterans theirs was a fight between the good guys and the bad. For many it was a fight to protect our homeland, but for some, it was a fight to protect someone else's land, all in the name of freedom. Our goal is a world at peace. Ronald Reagan said with much pride in the American spirit, "*Peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it; sacrifice for it; we will not surrender for it; now or forever. We are Americans.*"



Arlington National Cemetery

On Memorial Day flags are everywhere, even lining sidewalks and the entrance of the parking lot at the YMCA. Scanning the panoramic landscape, the flags give us a patriotic feeling and an impressive display of support for our military. They have earned our respect. The flags portray an even more powerful image when you see them placed at grave markers, each in tribute to a person who gave their life to protect ours. *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13)*. On this day, let us pause in appreciation for what each American soldier has done for us. Because of them, we are free.



Soldier placing an American flag at the grave marker of a fallen soldier.

Jesus Christ was God's supreme sacrifice, giving his life for our freedom. He died a cruel, inhuman death at the hands of Roman soldiers. Because of his sacrificial death we may receive forgiveness and be free from the eternal consequences of sin. *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery*

(Galatians 5:1). Jesus showed us the difference of right and wrong. *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:32)*. We no longer are slaves to sin. Jesus offers forgiveness of sins for when we fall short. For Jesus the peace we desire came in the form of love.



On this Memorial Day let us remember the sacrifice of so many who gave their life for us, including those who went into battle to protect our country and the cause of freedom. Let us also always remember the sacrifice of the One who went into battle to protect our soul. Because of His love for all people His sacrifice is for everyone, everywhere.

Question: Name some similarities of American soldiers giving their life for the cause of freedom compared to Jesus sacrificial death for our souls? How are they different?

Closing Prayer: We thank you for people so passionate about our country they are willing to risk their life for us, so that we will be free to live and worship you. In Christ's name we pray.



In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:12)