

Taps

The fitness class at the Y is continuing their Memorial Day tradition on Monday. Near the end of the class the theme song of each branch of the US military service will be played. Those whose family served in that branch will come forward to celebrate the veterans in their family as their theme song is played. The class participants then will move to the flagpole outside the Y where a lone trumpet player will play “taps.” He will stand next to the American flag which will have been lowered to half-mast. Behind the American flag will be flags of the US Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. This is a way to honor those who have given their life for the cause of freedom.



Jesus gave us His life for freedom. His victory on the cross gave us the freedom to live with the forgiveness of our sins. It takes away the burden and allows us to hold our head high. Jesus’ sacrifice is for you and me. A former Pastor frequently said, “If you were the only person on the face of this earth Jesus would have given His life for you.” *“Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses (Acts 13:38-39).* Amazing!

At the YMCA flagpole, as taps is played people will fix their eyes on the American flag and stand with their hand over their heart. It is Memorial Day. We know our freedom was won at a great cost of human lives. The picture above shows that the flags of our branches of service are mounted on a large cross. It is appropriate that the foundation of our military service is the cross of Jesus Christ! The cross is the symbol of a great victory.



Usually taps is played as an instrumental trumpet solo. The lyrics of this first verse is, “Day is done, gone the sun; from the lake, from the hills, from the sky; All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.” We are thankful for the sacrifice of our veterans. They gave all they had – their life. We also know that Jesus gave it all for us, too. Because of Jesus’ victory over death, when our day is done, we can say with a single, solo voice, “All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.”

The Bible Says: *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed (John 8:36).*

Prayer: Dear Lord. This weekend we honor those who have given their lives for our freedom as a nation. We also honor you, Lord, for your sacrifice so that we may be free from sins that we confess to you. Amen.

Taps – a song played at the end of the day, military funerals and flag ceremonies. Complete Lyrics to Taps

- Day is done, gone the sun; from the lake, from the hills, from the sky; All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.
- Fading light, dims the sight, And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright. From afar, drawing nigh, falls the night.
- Thanks and praise, for our days, 'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky; as we go, this we know, God is nigh.
- Sun has set, shadows come, Time has fled, Scouts must go to their beds; always true to the promise that they made.
- While the light fades from sight, And the stars gleaming rays softly send; to thy hands we our souls, Lord, commend.

