

MEMORIAL DAY 2009

Once more, as we approach this Memorial Day, I share my obligation and duty to remind everyone again of the meaning of this coming weekend.

Unfortunately - Many people still see this weekend as just another reason to have a "gigantic sale" to sell something or use it as a signal for "the official start" to summer. Cook outs, opening the summer place or having "everyone over" takes center stage. Forgotten is the real meaning behind this holiday.

The date we observe Memorial Day has change over the years because in my humble opinion, business and the minority of the private sector - employees and employers alike - wanted to ensure a minimum "financial impact" or inconvenience to their company profits and/or lifestyle. So the date gets moved from May 31st to a more convenient day. This year - It'll be Monday - May 25th. Shameful.

This year - I'll travel to Washington, DC. with friends. On the way, we'll visit the grave of a shipmate who I served with aboard ship in the waters of Vietnam in 1972. We'll visit The Wall and find once again, the names of people we have connections with. We'll Remember.

We'll visit the World War II Memorial - Thanking and shaking hands with other Veterans - especially expressing our thanks to those from the Greatest Generation. We'll visit the Korean Memorial and thanking those Veterans.

We'll think of those who have passed and privately thank them as well. But most of all - We'll Remember.

As you enjoy cold beverages, set up the grill and flip another burger - keep in mind, our men and women who are in uniform today. Those who stand in harms way. Those who fight the battle each and every day. Those who stand on guard for our nation. Will You Remember?

It doesn't matter what your point of view is regarding Iraq or Afghanistan or any other area that our men and women serve. What matters is that you remember those who have fallen and those who are serving today.

To those veterans who always stand on the sidelines - this year - step off the curb and join the others. Or at the very least, salute the colors as they pass by and recognize those who march.

Make it a point to express your thanks to those who have served - But most of all - REMEMBER....

Understand that the freedoms you enjoy were earned and are being earned everyday by the sacrifices of others. Enjoy that long weekend - but remember - there is a cost. FREEDOM ISN'T FREE!!!!!!

Honor those who serve, who have served and especially remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice this Memorial Day.

To my fellow Veterans - THANK YOU for Serving.

My Best to you all - this Memorial Day.

Steve Whynot
SK1 USNR-Ret