Memorial Day
by
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What did you do this Memorial Day? Did you BBQ in the back yard? Invite guest over for a party? Go on a family outing?

Most of us probably looked at Memorial Day as part of a 3-day holiday weekend, often called Memorial Day Holiday. Let's look at that word "Holiday." The recognize authority for English word definitions is the Oxford Languages Dictionary. According to Oxford holiday as a noun is "a day of festivity or recreation when no work is done." Other definitions define it as "a period of time during which you relax and enjoy yourself."

But what is this day we call "Memorial Day?" Wikipedia states that:

> "*Memorial Day* is a federal holiday in the United States for mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces."

AL.com defines it as

> "Memorial Day remains a time set aside for remembering and honoring military personnel that died in the service of their country, particularly those killed in battle."

These and others definitions are all similar in that they include the words remember, honor, and mourn.

Memorial Day, was established in 1868 and originally called "Declaration Day." It is a solemn time that should remind us of those who died while protecting our nation, its freedoms, its people, and you. It is not a day for fun and games, for partying, or any aspect of being a holiday.

As a nation we have forgotten the purpose of Memorial Day. Worse though, is that we have not taught our children and their children, the importance of those who sacrificed their lives for us.

So what did you do this past Memorial Day?