

VFW Remembers Our Fallen

There is no freedom without bravery, and those we honor on Memorial Day were brave when it counted most

May 24, 2024

WASHINGTON — On Memorial Day, May 27, in quiet services across the country, the more than 1.4 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its Auxiliary will come together to remember the men and women who lost their lives in military service.

As we gather and observe this Memorial Day, we carry on a tradition originally called Decoration Day, a holiday officially proclaimed in 1868 to honor those who died during the Civil War. After World War I, the solemn day was expanded to honor those killed in all wars. It became an official federal holiday in 1971, set aside to remember all those who died in service to the United States. Read the 2024 White House proclamation [here](#).

Generation after generation, our nation has been fortunate enough to have service members who continue to believe that freedom is worth fighting for, and if necessary, dying for. There is no freedom without bravery, and those we honor on Memorial Day were brave when it counted most.

This Memorial Day, the VFW reminds our nation that we must live the America they died for ... a country of freedom, equality, opportunity and unlimited promise. The VFW encourages you to take time this Memorial Day, and every day, reflecting on those who made the ultimate sacrifice in support and defense of the Constitution of the United States. There is no better way to honor those who gave all than to remember them, honor their service, mourn their loss, and show gratitude to the families they left behind.

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