

2021 Memorial Day Speech

On this Memorial Day, we come here to pay honor and respect to all the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in defense of our country.

While the focus today is on those who gave their lives for us, we should also recognize the heroic efforts and sacrifices that our first responders and health care workers have given over the last year as we have all dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Memorial Day is a day unlike any other. Since 1868 we have come together in our communities, cities and towns, to remember and honor those who served in the military and gave their lives protecting our freedoms.

For most families, the Memorial Day weekend kicks off the season of barbecues, family get togethers, parties, and all sorts of other outdoor fun. But the true meaning of Memorial Day goes much deeper than that. Memorial Day is meant TO HONOR AND REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE MILITARY AND DIED DEFENDING OUR FREEDOMS.

It is the Soldier, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press.

It is the Soldier, not the poet, who gave us the freedom of speech.

It is the Soldier, not the politicians, that ensures us our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It is the Soldier who salutes the Flag, who serves beneath the Flag and whose coffin is draped by the Flag.

The men and women we honor today came from all walks of life. They had different backgrounds, different heritages, and different religions. But they all shared some common qualities. They all possessed courage, pride, determination, dedication to duty, and integrity. They all shared a common goal, to serve and protect our nation and our freedom.

They were willing to sacrifice their lives in defense of our nation.

They didn't ask to leave their homes to fight on distant battlefields. They didn't go to war because they loved fighting. These ordinary people rose to the nation's call because they wanted to protect a nation which has given them, and us, so much.

The true meaning of Memorial Day is to honor and remember all those American soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and coast guardsmen who died defending our freedom and our right to be free!

On Veterans Day, we will honor the living who have served in the military. But today, we honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Memorial Day is a time to remember their courage and sacrifice. Though sadness touches our hearts, we must always remember those who gave their lives defending our country.

Today, I ask all of you to take a moment for two important things.

First, say Thank You to all of our first responders and health care workers who continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic and are saving the lives of many people.

Second, take a moment to say Thank You and remember all those men and women who have given their lives in the Armed Forces to protect and defend our nation.

Thank you, and God Bless the United States of America.