

## 2019 Memorial Day Speech

We are here today to pay honor and respect to all the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in defense of our country. Our gratitude and respect for their sacrifice must last forever.

Memorial Day is a day unlike any other. Since 1868 we have come together in our communities, cities, and towns, to place flowers and flags on the graves of those who have given their last full measure of devotion to our country. We come here to remember and honor those who have done their duty and paid the ultimate price. They gave their lives to protect and defend our country and our freedom.

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. They were ordinary people who responded in extraordinary ways in extreme times. They rose to the nation's call because they wanted to protect a nation which has given them, and us, so much.

Millions of Americans have fought and died on battlefields here and abroad to defend our freedoms and our way of life. Today our troops continue to make the ultimate sacrifices, and even as we lose troops, more Americans step forward to say, I'm ready to serve. They follow in the footsteps of generations of fine Americans.

Memorial Day is not a day to honor the living, but to the contrary, it's a day to honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Memorial Day is a time to remember and celebrate their courage and sacrifice. Though sadness touches our hearts, we must always remember the courage and bravery of those who gave their lives defending our country.

Try and take some time, even if just a few minutes, to think and remember those men and women from our hometown and from across the Country who have served and died. They should never be forgotten.

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!

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