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MEMORIAL DAY

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REMEMBER AND HONOR



THE NEWS SUN | THE HERALD REPUBLICAN | The **Star**

Paying Your Respects

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Consider a holiday trip that honors our soldiers' ultimate sacrifices

With time off each year, there's ample opportunity to schedule visits to monuments and memorials that honor America's fallen service members. Here are several recommendations, found from one side of the country to another — with a few stops in between.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Arlington, Virginia

Our country's best-known military cemetery sits on land once owned by Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Arlington National is the final resting place for hundreds of thousands of military veterans and their dependents. Visitors are encouraged to visit the solemn Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a white marble sarcophagus created in 1921 to recognize anonymous service members who were killed in action.

Elsewhere, you will



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USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor

find the graves of former presidents John F. Kennedy and William Howard Taft, among others.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARCH

Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

The fledgling Continental Army struggled through a brutal winter in 1777-78, as more than 2,500 soldiers lost their lives due to disease, exposure and starvation

at their encampment in Valley Forge. The National Memorial Arch honors their service and their memory. Of course, Valley Forge is also known as the spot where Gen. George Washington's war-turning advance later began.

NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

Kansas City, Missouri

The Liberty Memorial opened in 1926, and was designated by Congress as the country's official World War I memorial in 2004. Exhibits retrace the Great War and related events from 1914 through the peace conference in 1919 in Paris.

NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM

New Orleans, Louisiana
Formerly known as the National D-Day Museum, this facility was likewise designated as the nation's official World War II memorial by Congress in 2004. Rotating exhibits are paired with an impressive array of memorabilia. The museum was built in New

Orleans to recognize the city's role in winning the war in Europe: Amphibious boats used to transport troops were designed and built by the local Higgins Industries.

USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL

Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii

Nearly 2,000 crewmen died when the USS Arizona took a direct hit during the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor that drew America into World War II. The shipwreck was declared a national shrine in 1962, and now honors those who were killed on a date which President Franklin D. Roosevelt rightly said "will live in infamy."

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HERITAGE CENTER

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Officially opened on Feb. 22, 2020, the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center serves as a lasting tribute to the recipients of the first Medals of Honor and all recipients since. The center reverently underscores both the heritage of the Medal of Honor and the sacrifices made by various recipients from the Civil War to the Global War on Terror.



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Some Gave All.**

*Saluting those who
served and sacrificed on*

**MEMORIAL
DAY**

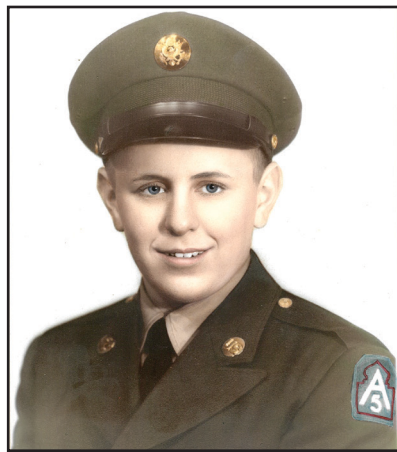
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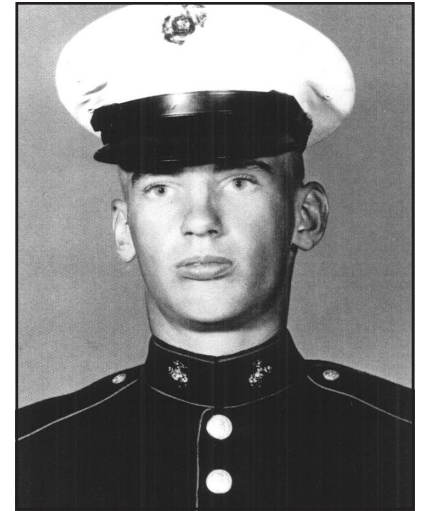




Ervin Curtis Link
US Army 1959-1962
Germany
Love you,
Opal and Ryan Link



Gary R. Butler
Sergeant, Army
Takes great pride in his
country. My husband, my Hero.
Love, Sandy



Richard James Hastreiter
Son - Brother
Marine - Hero

Honor veterans this Memorial Day

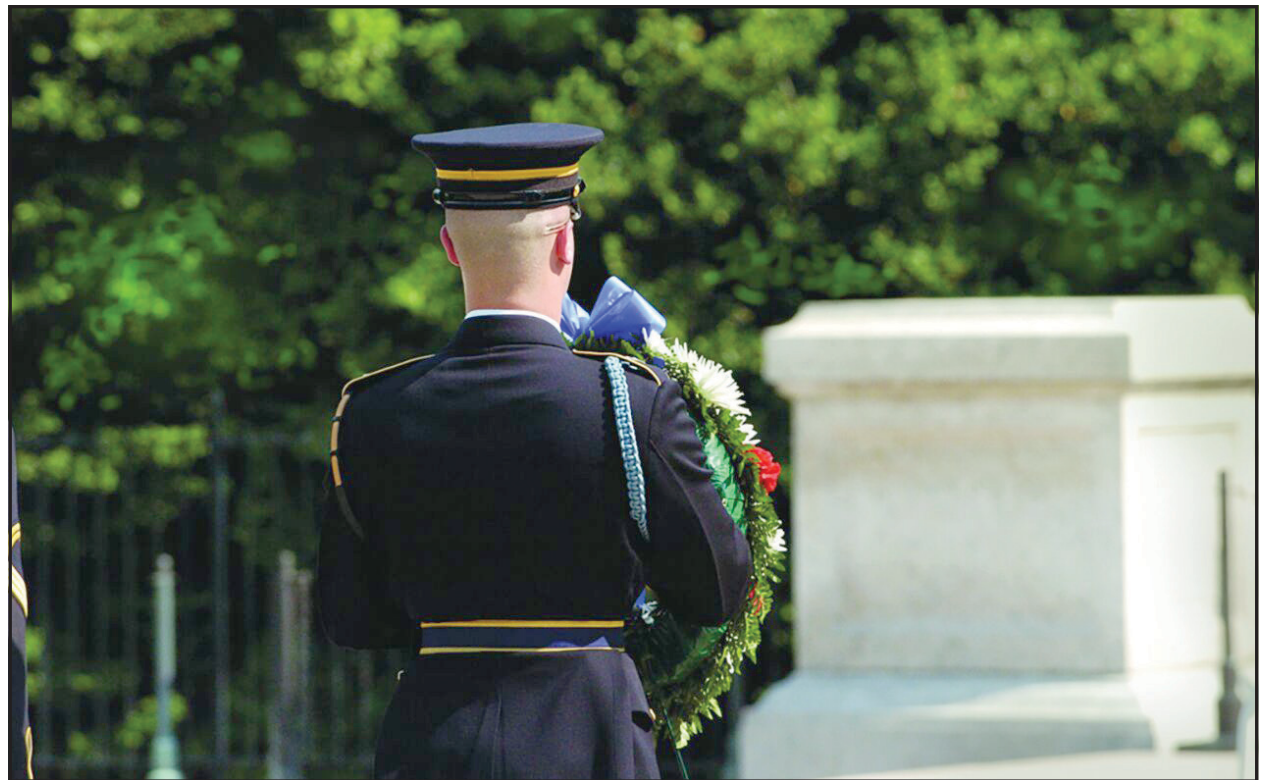
BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Memorial Day often is celebrated with the excitement of a long weekend and the prospect of firing up the grill for a backyard barbecue. But Memorial Day also is a time to reflect on the men and women who gave their lives to defend American freedom.

Memorial Day was established to honor individuals who died while serving the United States in the Armed Forces. Memorial Day is a time to reflect on the sacrifices of the fallen heroes who dedicated and lost their lives in the pursuit of service. The following are some ways to honor those sacrifices this Memorial Day.

- **Observe the National Moment of Remembrance.** The National Moment of Remembrance is an annual one-minute moment of silence that takes place at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day. Established by Congress in 2000, this unifying moment encourages Americans to pause their activities and reflect on the high cost of freedom. The time is significant, as it is a period when most people are enjoying Memorial Day festivities that were made possible by the sacrifices of Armed Forces personnel.

- **Honor the American flag.** Memorial Day features a unique flag protocol. To properly honor the fallen, the flag should be flown at half-staff until noon. Afterwards, it should be raised to the top of the staff for the remainder of the day,



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according to the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. The transition marks the nation's mourning in the morning hours and then the legacy of fallen veterans later in the afternoon.

- **Coordinate flag placement for cemeteries.** Organizations like Flags for Fallen Vets and scouting groups make an effort to place small American flags at the grave sites of deceased veterans. Many cemeteries

feature sections exclusively for veterans. Similarly, families can visit cemeteries and leave a penny or a stone on the headstone of a veteran, which shows others that someone visited to pay their respects.

- **Talk to the next generation.** To ensure that the memories of fallen soldiers do not fade into obscurity, living veterans can speak with youth about their service experiences and those of their fallen friends. Schools

or local municipalities can organize speaking engagements.

Memorial Day is much more than sales at the furniture store or a day spent manning the grill. It is a day to remember and honor service members who never made it home to see their great country again. Ensuring that their efforts are remembered, and giving thanks to all veterans, is a great way to commemorate Memorial Day.

5 interesting facts about Memorial Day

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Memorial Day is celebrated at the end of May each year to honor those who lost their lives while serving in the Armed Forces.

Memorial Day, the origins of which can be traced to the aftermath of the American Civil War, holds deep historical significance, and the following are five interesting facts about the holiday.

1. The holiday began as Decoration Day. Before the official establishment of Memorial Day, communities began holding spring tributes to fallen soldiers, decorating soldiers' graves with flowers to pay respects. In 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for northern Civil War veterans, officially proclaimed May 30 as Decoration Day. War.gov says that graves at Arlington National Cemetery continued to be adorned in the same fashion they were back in the 1860s.

2. Memorial Day became an official holiday in 1968. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed

Memorial Day into law on June 28, 1968, officially marking Memorial Day as a national holiday. However, two years prior, he signed a proclamation officially declaring Waterloo, New York, as the birthplace of Memorial Day. The town was the first to honor fallen soldiers, and has been featuring a formal, community-wide event since May 5, 1866.

3. Blooming flowers have a place in Memorial Day history. Historians believe that the original choice of May 30 for Decoration Day was not due to any specific battle. Rather, it was a day when no particular conflict had taken place and was the time of year when flowers would be in full bloom. So on May 30 there would be plenty of flowers across the country to decorate soldiers' graves.

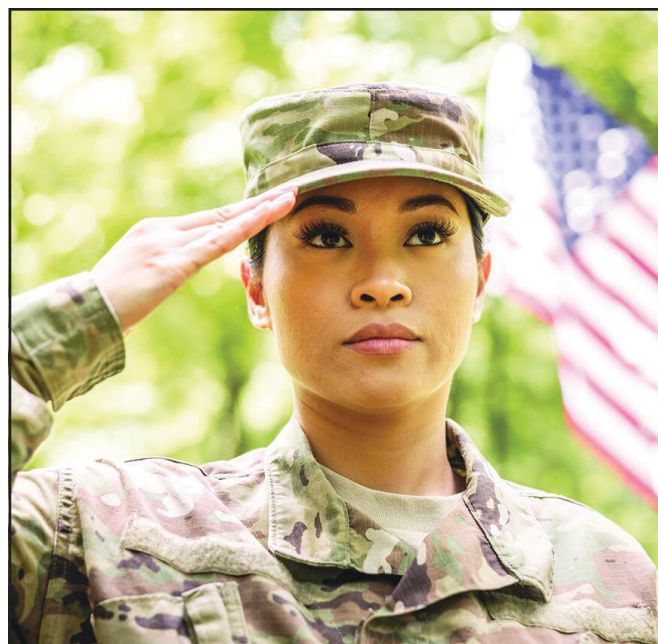
4. All fallen veterans were eventually honored on Memorial Day. Many early Memorial Day iterations honored those who died during the American Civil War. After World War I, however, the Memorial Day holiday was expanded to honor all American military

personnel who died during any war.

5. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act changed when Memorial Day is commemorated.

Memorial Day once was commemorated on May 30 regardless of the day of the week. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act,

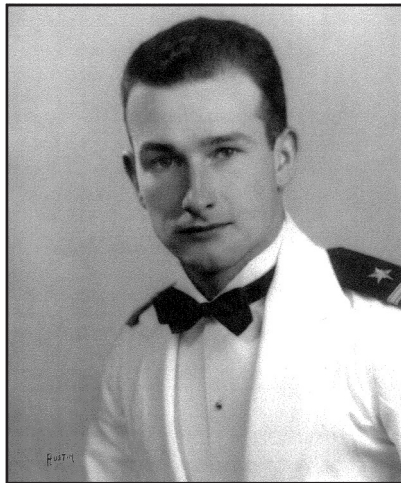
moving Memorial Day to the last Monday in May to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. This change went into effect in 1971.



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A graphic for Memorial Day. On the left, the word "MEMORIAL" is written vertically in large, blue, block letters. To its right, the word "DAY" is written horizontally in large, black, block letters. Above "DAY" are five red stars. Below "DAY" are the dates "05" and "25" in red. To the right of the stars is a small black silhouette of a soldier saluting. Below the silhouette is a stylized American flag. At the bottom, there is a red banner with white text: "CONNECTION MEANS MORE HERE 260.894.7161". Below the banner is the "LigTel" logo and the text: "Your local internet and telephone provider. We've been serving the community since 1896."

An advertisement for Garrett State Bank. The background is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The text reads: "Our Deepest Respect. Our Eternal Gratitude." followed by "For their valor, dedication and sacrifice, we salute those who have perished in service to our great country. We will never forget." At the bottom, the "Garrett StateBank" logo is displayed, including "SINCE 1893" and "MEMBER FDIC". To the right of the logo is the website "www.garrettstatebank.com".



Richard W. Meyers
Richard W. Meyers, 27, was killed in action in the Java Sea in World War II.



Robert W. Schermerhorn
S/Sgt. 28th Infantry Division Army
Robert was killed Aug. 30, 1944 in Brest, France (age 21). Son of John & Edna Schermerhorn, Wawaka. The Rome City American Legion Post 381 carries his name. Love you, Uncle Bob, your nieces & nephews, Roger, Judy, David, Larry and Mary Jean



William R Schimpf
ETSN Korean War 1947-1951.
Love and Miss you!



Nicholas Hartge
PC, Army
May we never forget that freedom isn't free.
Miss you Nick.
Love, Mom & Dad



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SUE CARPENTER FILE PHOTO

Memorial Day service in Waterloo

Ethan Sullivan and Christian Johnson of Boy Scout Troop 169 present the colors during a Memorial Day service in Waterloo in 2024.



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In Flanders Fields

Poppies on Memorial Day

In the United States, poppies are worn on Memorial Day in remembrance of the scores of men and women who have died fighting for our nation. There is another opportunity to wear them, though: National Poppy Day falls on the Friday before Memorial Day, and it's become popular to mark the occasion by wearing a poppy and donating to vital veterans' services.

In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae
1972-1918

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

This poem is in the public domain



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Add some additional flavor to your Memorial Day BBQ

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Memorial Day weekend is a time for both reflection and relaxation across the United States. Memorial Day mourns and honors military personnel who lost their lives while serving in the American Armed Forces. Memorial Day parades honor such individuals, and the parades also instill pride in Americans during a much-beloved weekend across the United States.

Though Memorial Day is observed annually on the last Monday in May, the three-day holiday weekend marks the unofficial start of summer for millions of people each year. That kickoff typically includes lots of backyard barbecues. As millions gather to celebrate Memorial Day this year, those tasked with manning the grill can consider these ways to add some extra flavor to foods cooked over an open flame.

- **Monitor temperatures with a meat thermometer.** Overcooking foods cooked over an open flame is a common mistake. Overcooked foods tend to taste dried out and



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

fail to offer that signature juiciness associated with well-cooked barbecue staples like steak and other types of red meat. People manning the grill this Memorial Day are urged to utilize a meat

thermometer, which can ensure foods maintain their juicy flavor profile and do not dry out. The ideal internal cooking temperature varies depending on which foods are being cooked, so be sure to stick to a recipe or look up the appropriate internal cooking temperature for foods that will be cooked over an open flame.

- **Utilize wood chips or chunks.** Another way to add flavor is to grill foods over wood chips or chunks. Chips or chunks might be flavored (mesquite is a popular flavor) or unflavored. Cooks should know that adding flavored or unflavored chips or chunks will impart a smoky flavor to anything cooked on the grill. When using a gas grill, cooks can put the chips or chunks in a smoker box or wrap them in a foil pouch to impart extra flavor without adversely affecting the grill.

- **Dry rub meats.** Some people marinate grilled foods prior to cooking, but marinade can drip off when cooking food and lose much of its value in regard to adding

flavor. Dry rubs are made from spices, herbs and other seasonings that won't fall or burn off when foods are cooking. Dry rubs can add extra flavor when applied hours before cooking or even shortly before placing foods on the grill.

- **Slow down.** "Low and slow" is a motto embraced by people who love to smoke foods, and that same approach can be applied to more traditional grilling as well. Even if you don't have all day to cook like you would if you choose to smoke foods, cooking low and slow can ensure foods are juicy and full of that unique taste that's only possible when cooking over an open flame. Keep vents open only on a crack and cook foods at lower temperatures than you otherwise might. While the foods won't be cooked as fast, they will boast more of that signature smoky flavor grilling enthusiasts love.

There's no shortage of ways to impart some extra flavor to grilled foods this Memorial Day.

To Serve and Honor

Saluting those who paid the ultimate price in the name of freedom.



Your Community Network

American Legion 2026 remarks

BY LEGION.ORG

Veterans, Family, Friends and Honored Guests,

Since the founding of the United States, it is estimated that 558 million Americans and immigrants have lived in this country. More than 1.1 million of them have died defending the United States in wars and combat actions since the American Revolution. They each have stories to tell. The crosses at Normandy. The graves at Arlington. The markers at Punchbowl. The fallen heroes who rest in places unknown.

We are here for them.

We are here for heroes such as West Virginia National Guard Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, who was mortally wounded by a terrorist while she patrolled the streets of Washington, D.C., on November 26th. Air Force Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe was seriously wounded in the same attack.

Specialist Beckstrom's high school principal recalled her as someone who quote "Carried herself with quiet strength, a contagious smile and a positive energy that lifted people around her." -unquote.

How could we all not be lifted by the breathtaking sacrifices that veterans have made and continue to make on our behalf?

We are here for Specialist Beckstrom, her grieving family members and her friends. We are here to support Staff Sergeant Wolfe and his challenging road to recovery.

We do not forget.

We are here for the 2,341 American servicemembers who lost their lives during the attack on Pearl Harbor 85 years ago.

We are here for the 3,100 combat deaths and thousands more who succumbed to the elements at Korea's "frozen" Chosin Reservoir.

We are here for the men and women who continue to lose their lives during operations in the Middle East.

From Bunker Hill to Baghdad, Americans from

communities throughout the United States have answered their nation's call and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Included on this hallowed list of heroes is Air Force Staff Sergeant William Pitsenbarger. Sixty years ago, in a thick jungle near Saigon, a company of soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division was surrounded and outnumbered by Viet Cong. Enemy soldiers were estimated to be close to 400.

Pitsenbarger, a pararescue jumper, voluntarily entered the danger area through a helicopter drop, so he could administer aid and evacuate the wounded. Armed with a rifle, pistol and medical bag, Pitsenbarger refused evacuation nine times while he helped others get to safety. He repeatedly collected and distributed ammunition to soldiers under fire. He continued assisting others, while fighting the enemy even after being wounded three times.

"Pits" as he was affectionately called by his friends, would fall in battle. He epitomized the motto of pararescue jumpers, which is, quote- "These things we do...that others may live." -unquote.

His body was later found with his rifle in one hand, and his medical bag in the other. He was 21.

For his actions taken on April 11, 1966, William H. Pitsenbarger of Piqua, Ohio, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor and promoted to staff sergeant.

The families started and children produced by those he rescued will always be Staff Sergeant Pitsenbarger's legacy.

He did, so others may live. It is an ethos shared by so many of America's fallen heroes.

From those who absorbed the blast of a grenade while saving their friends, to those who died rescuing crew from a sinking ship, we take this day to reflect on ordinary Americans exhibiting extraordinary valor.

To honor the legacy of the fallen, we should all commit to the freedom offered by the greatest nation on earth. A land where patriotism eclipses politics, where the American

Flag is displayed proudly and frequently and where military veterans are society's true celebrities.

We must NEVER forget the families of our fallen.

Long after the battlefield guns have been silenced and the bombs stop exploding, the children of our fallen warriors

SEE REMARKS, PAGE 11

Thank You Veterans

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REMEMBER AND HONOR



MATT GETTS FILE PHOTO

Honor Guard

A combined Honor Guard consisting of the Kendallville police and fire departments march during last year's Memorial Day Parade in downtown Kendallville. Several hundred people lined the parade route.



SHERYL PRENTICE FILE PHOTO

Honor Guard

An honor guard stands at attention as a bugler in the background plays "Taps" at American Legion Post 86. The honor guard fired a gun salute during a Memorial Day service at the post at last year's program.

Our Eternal Gratitude for Their Endless Courage & Sacrifice

On Memorial Day and every day we honor the men and women who sacrificed every thing to defend and protect the values we as a nation hold dear. We recognize that freedom is not free and we thank all those who serve for their valor and dedication.



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REMARKS

FROM PAGE 9

will still be missing a parent. Spouses will be without their life partners. Parents will continue to grieve for their heroic sons and daughters that died way too early.

We need to be present for them, not just as members of The American Legion Family – but as American citizens. Nobody can replace these fallen heroes – especially in the eyes of their families – but we can offer shoulders to cry on, assistance with educational expenses and assurances that their loved one’s sacrifice will not be forgotten.

There are many ways to honor the fallen. While we can still enjoy recreational activities over Memorial Day weekend, we take this moment – this special moment – to remember the price that was paid for us to enjoy our American way of life.

Remembering and honoring the legacies of those who didn’t make it back is the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Let us remember that tyrannical regimes have been toppled and genocides stopped because Americans sacrificed life and limb. Let us remember that terrorist plots were foiled and killers brought to justice because Americans were willing to pay a high price. Let us remember that without a U.S. military, the world would be a far more oppressive and darker place. Let us remember that freedom has no greater friend than the American soldier, sailor, airman, Marine, Coast Guardsman and Space Force Guardian.

The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion charges our organization to “Preserve the memories and incidents of our association in all wars.”

The true way to honor the fallen is to live in a way

worthy of their sacrifice. That means strengthening our communities, helping our fellow veterans, supporting military families, and teaching the next generation what this day truly means.

We must tell their stories.

We must speak their names.

We must ensure that our children and grandchildren understand that the freedoms they inherit were paid for with courage, service, and sacrifice.

Abraham Lincoln said a nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure. He was right. But we should also ask ourselves, would a

nation that didn’t honor its heroes be a nation in which we would want to live?

Your attendance here answers that question.

We are here for them.

Thank you, God Bless America, God Bless Our Veterans and God Bless our Gold Star Families.



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Did You Know?

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

According to the Department of Defense (DOD), the United States Armed Forces had 1.33 million people identified as active troops as of 2025.

The DOD reported that an additional 770,118 people were serving in the National Guard or as reserves as of 2025.

Active-duty Armed Forces personnel in the United States are spread

across six main service branches: the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, and the Space Force. As of December 2025, the Army had more active-duty troops (447,455) than any other branch of the American military. The Navy (339,602) had the second most active-duty troops, while the Air Force (315,317) was the third largest branch in terms of active-duty troops.

WE PROUDLY SALUTE OUR VETERANS! ANGOLA AMERICAN LEGION POST 31



**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE
TOGETHER FOR COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION.
WE ARE VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA.**

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wants you."***

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