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May 2021

## Memorial Day Things you may not know...



A truly American holiday: Memorial Day. We honor the lives of men and women who have died while serving in the U.S. Military.

### Interesting Facts You May Not Know

**Started after the Civil War:** The Civil War claimed 620,000 American soldiers' lives.

**Expanded After World War I:** Memorial Day expanded to honor all who died during any American war.

**Last Monday in May:** In 1971 Memorial Day became a national holiday by an act of Congress (the Uniform Monday Holiday Act) and was set for the last Monday of the month of May.

**Not Memorial Day?** Originally, the day was known as Decoration Day. And was celebrated by decorating soldiers' graves with flowers and flags.

**May flowers:** May 1868, Major General John A Logan declared the holiday should be observed the end of May, many think, because an abundance of flowers would be in bloom to be used in the decorations.

**Born in New York?** Waterloo, NY is listed as the "Birthplace of Memorial Day".

**A Moment:** Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 pm local time.

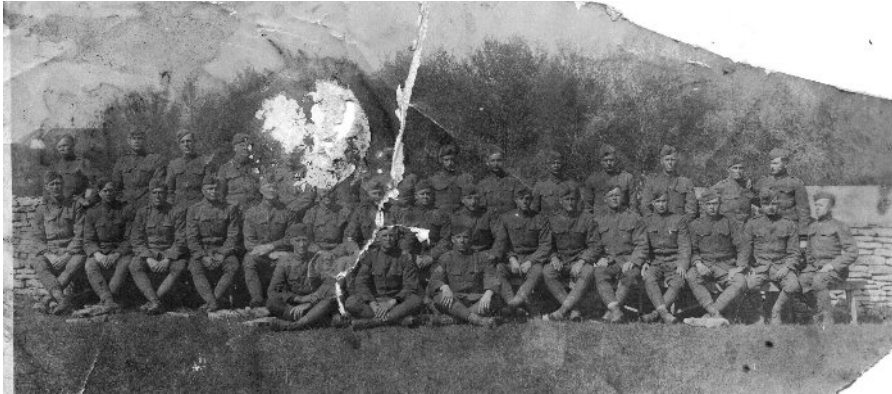
**Parades:** Many cities and towns hold parades incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' groups.

**Red Poppy:** Many people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war. This originated from a WWI poem by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian who served as a brigade surgeon for an Allied artillery unit.

**Unofficial beginning of Summer:** The three day Memorial Day weekend has morphed into the unofficial beginning of Summer, complete with outdoor

Sources: history.com, townandcountrymag.com and goodhousekeeping.com.

## Larry's Family Served



My family and I are proud to be Americans, and to have served this country's military. My dad, five brothers and I have all served in various branches of military service. Dad served as a Forward Observer in France in WWI. My wife's father and his 2 brothers served in the Navy. During WWII, the eldest brother's ship was attacked by the Japanese -- there were no survivors.

Old photos (above) show the brave men our father served with. And the USS Manchuria brought him home.

Source: Larry S. Helms

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