

Trivia

Memorial Day is sometimes confused with Veterans Day. However, Veterans Day honors all United States military veterans, while Memorial Day honors the soldiers who died while serving.

Approximately 620,000 soldiers on both sides died during the Civil War.

The Grand Army of the Republic was created by the Union Army to honor their dead. After World War I the American Legion took over their duties.

Congress passed the National Moment of Remembrance Act in 2000 that requires all Americans to stop what they are doing at 3:00 pm on Memorial Day to remember and honor those who have died serving the United States.

On Memorial Day, the flag is supposed to be flown at half-mast until noon and then raised to full mast until sunset.

The tradition of wearing red poppies on Memorial Day originated from John McCrae's 1915 poem "In Flanders Fields." Canadians wear red poppies on Remembrance Day in November to honor their soldiers.

It's common for volunteers to place the American flag on graves in the national cemeteries. Memorial Day is also a popular day for people to visit cemeteries and honor those who have died while serving in the military.

In some areas of the rural South, certain cemeteries may hold a Decoration Day event for Memorial Day.

In 1966, President Johnson named Waterloo, New York, as the original place of Memorial Day.

There are more than 300,000 fallen soldiers buried at Arlington Cemetery. On average, 28 burials are held there each day.

Although not as popular today, one Memorial Day tradition was to eat a picnic meal while sitting on the grounds of a cemetery.

(Softschools.com)

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Dates in History

- 1639** The first free, taxpayer-supported public school in North America, the Mather School, was opened in Dorchester, Massachusetts, on May 8th. The school is still open and currently serves 616 students.
- 1707** The "Acts of Union" were two Acts of Parliament: the Union with Scotland Act passed in 1706 by the Parliament of England, and the Union with England Act passed in 1707 by the Parliament of Scotland. The Acts took effect on May 1st. On this date, the Scottish Parliament and the English Parliament united to form the Parliament of Great Britain, based in the Palace of Westminster in London, the home of the English Parliament. The Acts are referred to as the "Union of the Parliaments."
- 1873** The first U.S. government-produced postcard was issued on May 1st. One side of the postcard was for a message and the other side was for the recipient's address. By law, the government postcards were the only postcards allowed to bear the term "Postal Card." Private publishers were still allowed to print postcards, but they were more expensive to mail than the government-produced cards (2¢ instead of 1¢).
- 1915** On May 7th, less than a year after World War I (1914-18) erupted across Europe, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the RMS Lusitania, a British ocean liner en route from New York to Liverpool, England. The vessel went down in 20 minutes drowning 1,198 of its 1,959 passengers.
- 1933** On May 8th, the first police radio system, connecting headquarters to patrol cars and patrols cars to one another, was installed in Eastchester Township, New York.

On the Lighter Side

The attorney tells the accused, "I have some good news and some bad news."
"What's the bad news?" asks the accused.
"The bad news is your blood is all over the crime scene, and the DNA tests prove you did it."
"What's the good news?"
"Your cholesterol is 130."

Client: Please remove the unnecessary circle at the end of the sentence.
Me: You mean ... the period?
Client: I don't care what you designers call it; it is unsightly. Delete it.

Logic: "If you fall off that swing and break your neck, you can't go to the store with me."

At an art gallery, a woman and her ten-year-old son were having a tough time choosing between one of my paintings and another artist's work. They finally went with mine.
"I guess you decided you prefer an autumn scene to a floral," I said.
"No," said the boy. "Your painting's wider, so it'll cover three holes in our wall."

While I was out to lunch, my coworker answered my phone and told the caller that I would be back in 20 minutes. The woman asked, "Is that 20 minutes Central Standard Time?"

Justice: "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you. Then you'll see what it's like!"

On a brutally hot day, I walked past a miniature golf course and saw a dad following three small children from hole to hole. "Who's winning?" I shouted. "I am," said one kid. "Me," said another. "No, me," yelled the third. Sweat dripping down his face, the dad gasped, "Their mother is."