

Memorial Day 2004

Share your thoughts, your memories, your thanks



We hear you. "Woo hoo! Holiday weekend!" But this Memorial Day has special significance. We have men and women serving in the war in Iraq. June 6 marks the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

This is our day, our chance to give thanks to our men and women who serve, or have served, our country as well as those on the homefront, waiting the return of loved ones.

Most of the traditional celebrations of Memorial Day include barbecues with friends or trips to the lake or beach. Here's a few other suggestions. Listen to the soundtrack of "Forrest Gump," the recorded voices of the Vietnam generation. Watch "Saving Private Ryan," "The Patriot," or "Band of Brothers." Tune into the televised dedication of the [World War II Memorial](#) in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, May 29. The [Annual Memorial Day Concert](#) on the Mall, also in D.C., featuring Tom Hanks, will begin at 8 p.m. eastern on May 30 on PBS.

At the right is your opportunity to share your memories, thoughts or stories for this Memorial Day (please keep it to 150 words or less). We look forward to reading your stories and will post them, appropriately we feel, on June 6.

Memorial Day is Thanksgiving Day for me

by [Liz Brummond](#)

Nine generations of my family have served the United States starting with the Revolutionary War. My great-great-great-great-great grandfather, Johann Heinrich Blum, enlisted in the Pennsylvania troops during the Revolutionary War. He recorded some of his memories. In part, his journal reads: "...in a skirmish in the month of August [1776], a comrade beside me fell, shot through the head." He goes onto detail of how he narrowly escaped capture by the British during the battle of Fort Washington and how thankful he was for eluding the enemy. Except for him and a companion, all his comrades were killed or captured.

My family had loved ones in the War of 1812, the Civil War, both World Wars, Vietnam, Desert Storm and now the war on terrorism. My nephew just returned from 18 months of service in Iraq. Monday, I will call him, thank him and tell him how proud I am of him. I'll phone my father to thank him for his service in the Navy during World War II, then my daughter's father for his service in Vietnam and Desert Storm.

Then, because there are so many others out there who need my thanks, I'll sign onto [Operation Dear Abby](#) and send a thank-you note to a member of our armed services.

The [White House Commission on Remembrance](#) has asked all Americans to pause at 3 p.m. local time on Monday, May 31, to remember those who have fought and died for the United States. I will set my alarm on Monday for 3 p.m. so that, no matter what I'm doing, I'll remember to stop and say a prayer for those in active duty, their loved ones at home, those have served, and those who have died.

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Suggestions & support

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