

State Of Florida

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the last Monday in May is set aside to remember those who gave their lives in service to our Nation; and

WHEREAS, our Nation honors the service men and women who answered the call of duty and made the ultimate sacrifice defending our country and the liberties we deeply cherish; and

WHEREAS, millions of Floridians wore the uniforms of the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century with thousands giving their lives while serving; and

WHEREAS, on Memorial Day, as throughout the year, we honor and pray for our Gold Star Families and show our respect for the sacrifices their family members in uniform made defending our Nation; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.6 million veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States currently reside in Florida and multiple Veteran Service Organizations continue to foster the tradition of honoring and remembering our fallen warriors; and

WHEREAS, as a grateful Nation, it is important for us as a community, state and country to show our gratitude for all our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and Merchant Mariners who died fighting to maintain the security of our country and the freedoms we hold so dear.

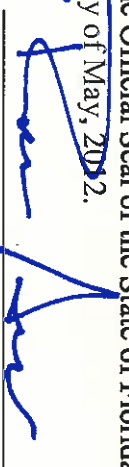
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida do hereby recognize May 28, 2012, as

MEMORIAL DAY

and encourage all Floridians to learn about the history of Memorial Day and call upon local communities to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support and recognize the contribution of our fallen warriors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet ask all Floridians to pause for one minute and observe the National Moment of Remembrance to honor America's fallen at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Marathon this 8th day of May, 2012.



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR



PAM BONDI
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JEFF ATWATER
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



ADAM H. PUTNAM
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE



First Place Winner
Vanessa Martinez



Americans Celebrate Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a day that everybody should remember and to think about our soldiers who sacrificed their lives to keep America free, strong, and healthy. First, do you know the history of Memorial Day? It wasn't always called Memorial Day. It is an important day to remember and honor the fallen soldiers that died fighting for our freedoms. Lastly, there are many ways to celebrate our traditions in America on this very special weekend. As you can see Memorial Day isn't just a three day weekend off from school and homework it's much more than that.

First, do you know the history behind Memorial Day? Long time ago it was originally called Decoration Day, because after the Civil War the graves were decorated with flowers, beautiful wreaths and American flags by family members. Then on May 5, 1866 General John B. Murray organized a memorial program where businesses closed, flags were ordered to be flown at half-staff. Later General John Logan declared May 30, 1868 the official day of Memorial Day to remember the fallen soldiers of the Civil War. In 1883 Waterloo, New York made May 30 a legal holiday. Now it is known as the birthplace of Memorial Day. When it was 1948, the U.S. Post Office honored Moina Michael for her part in the red poppy flower movement by producing a stamp with her picture on it. Moina Michael had an idea that every person should wear a red paper poppy to honor the dead. Another tradition is to play "taps" at the cemeteries because it means Remembrance. In the 1950's American flags were placed on the graves in Arlington National Cemetery. That's why I want you to know the history behind Memorial Day.

Next, we should all honor the brave fallen soldiers that died fighting for our precious freedoms. Some of the many freedoms we cherish in America are; freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of assembly, and right to vote for our government. Do you know what freedom of speech means? It means you can say anything you want as long as it doesn't hurt anybody's feelings. Citizens in other countries do not have that right. It's important to honor our soldiers because so many of them got wounded or hurt really badly fighting for these freedoms. There are many soldiers that died during the Civil War because they wanted our country free, and strong. I think we should all honor the fallen soldiers because they sacrificed their lives to protect us and make America free as an eagle.

Lastly, there are many ways to celebrate our traditions in America. Most Americans celebrate Memorial Day by having a family reunion to remember loved ones. When its Memorial Day my family and I have picnic at the park and sometimes we will have family reunions. Other Americans visit cemeteries to place American flags on all the fallen soldiers' tombstones. Some people go to race tracks to see the races and watch the military parade honoring the fallen soldiers. Every year the President places a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. There are many festivals that do reenactments of the Civil War to explain how life was back then. Moina Michael started the tradition of wearing red poppy to honor the dead, and disabled veterans. We've been raising money to help the servicemen ever since. Around the cities everybody should stop what they are doing on Monday at 3:00 to take a moment of silence to remember our brave fallen soldiers.

I will always remember the brave soldiers who fought for our country that built our great nation. It is very important to never forget the history behind Memorial Day. We must never forget the brave heroes who fought for our freedoms and rights so that America can be free as an eagle. Lastly, there is multiple of ways to celebrate our precious holiday Memorial Day. When you plan your activities for Memorial Day this year, please take time to remember our soldiers that have served for our country. Many of those soldiers died to give the freedoms you now enjoy. America, the greatest country on Earth.

**Second Place Winner
Giovanni Sandoval**



Americans Celebrate Memorial Day

Do you really understand the purpose of celebrating Memorial Day? Not only because it is a three day weekend from school and work, is it actually a day to remember our loved ones and our fallen soldiers who died. First, there is so much American history behind the beginning of the holiday Memorial Day. Also, on this day we should certainly take some time to remember those who had died fighting for our freedoms and rights. Lastly, Americans across the United States celebrate Memorial Day with many beautiful traditions.

First, do you really know the whole history based on Memorial Day? It was once called "Decoration Day". It started after the Civil War by women, and children that decorated the tombstones of family members that had died in the war, with flowers and American flags. They agreed to meet at the same time next year to honor the soldiers. Memorial Day's birthplace is in Waterloo, New York, when in 1866 General John B. Murray ordered businesses closed and flags to half-staff for a memorial program for the Civil War fallen soldiers. In 1868 General John A. Logan named May 30, the official day to remember fallen soldiers of the Civil War. In 1883 Waterloo, New York made May 30 a legal holiday, and that holiday is known as Memorial Day. That is some of the incredible history that I learned in fourth grade about Memorial Day.

Next, we should honor all of our fallen soldiers that paid the ultimate sacrifice known as death to keep our country free. Some of the freedoms that our courageous soldiers fought for are our freedom of speech where we can say anything we want to as long as it does not hurt anyone; freedom of worship where we can choose our own religion without anyone judging you, and especially freedom of the press where we can write anything we want to again as long as it does not hurt anyone. During many ceremonies on the last Monday of May we recite the names of all our fallen soldiers. That's why I feel as free as an eagle when our brave soldiers are fighting for our freedoms and rights.

Lastly, we are as lucky as a four leaf clover to be born free, so we celebrate Memorial Day with our great traditions. Before the Indianapolis Auto 500 race we see soldiers marching down the track with big vivid colored American flags. On Thursday before Memorial Day soldiers from the third U.S. Infantry place small American flags on each of the over two-hundred fifty thousand graves in Arlington National Cemetery, that has been a tradition since the late 1950's. At many festivals around the country people have demonstrated semaphores to show how people signaled each other during the Civil War. A woman named Moina Michaels was inspired by the classic poem "Flanders Field" published by Dr. John McCrae in 1915. She later wrote her own poem about poppies a red paper flowers that we wear to honor our fallen soldiers as a tradition. Those are some of the many traditions of how we show respect to our bold fallen soldiers.

It's certainly true that we should honor and show respect to all of those who sacrificed so much for our American way of life. First, Memorial Day is rich with a lot of amazing American history. Next, it's very important that we never forget to honor those who had died and fought for our country. Finally, we celebrate Memorial Day with our many glorious traditions. There's no doubt about it that I will always be inspired by our fallen soldiers who had fought for our many freedoms and rights that we cherish. America the great!