

As we approach Memorial Day, we pause as a Nation and as an organization to fulfill a sacred duty: to remember, to honor, and to grieve the heavy price of our country's freedom. Within our ranks, the legacy of the Service is deeply intertwined with the history of American military resilience. Because we have walked the path of that service, we bear a profound and lasting obligation to ensure that the memory of our fallen comrades is never diminished by the passage of time. Their names are etched in history, but their legacy is written in the very liberty we enjoy today.

In honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice, we are naturally reminded of the unbroken line of service that connects our past to our present. We look across our formation with immense pride, recognizing the incredible generations of those who have served who have carried the line through humanity's darkest chapters. We honor our veterans from the Cold War and the crucible of Vietnam, and we salute those who answered the call during the Global War on Terrorism, as well as those who deployed on vital peacekeeping and humanitarian missions around the globe. To all who stepped forward into leadership when your country needed it most: your collective courage, resilience, and unyielding devotion to duty remain the bedrock of our heritage.

Yet, we know that no soldier ever serves alone, and the story of American freedom is incomplete without the silent pillars of our strength. Today, we offer our deepest gratitude and reverence to our military families. To the spouses, children, parents, and siblings who shared in the burdens of command—who endured the long, anxious deployments and held the home front together with quiet grace—we thank you. Your profound sacrifices and enduring strength are woven into the very fabric of our nation's history.

Finally, we turn our thoughts to the horizon, extending our prayers and utmost respect to those who are continuing to serve today. To our alumni currently in uniform—whether deployed forward in distant lands, stationed stateside, or keeping vigil over freedom across the globe at this very hour—your dedication ensures that the torch of leadership passed down through generations remains unbroken and bright.

This weekend, as the bugle sounds Taps, let us move beyond mere observation. Let us commit ourselves to living lives worthy of the sacrifices made on our behalf. May we forever honor the fallen, sustain their families, and stand in unwavering solidarity with those who still serve.

Wishing you and your loved ones a meaningful, deeply reflective Memorial Day.