

Decoration Day, A Day Of Remembrance

The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war. –Douglas MacArthur

Americans never quit. –Douglas MacArthur

I am concerned for the security of our great Nation; not so much because of any threat from without, but because of the insidious forces working from within. –Douglas MacArthur

There are only two holidays a year that bring me to tears. The first is Decoration Day (now Memorial Day) and the second is Independence Day, July 4th. In 2011, I wrote an article entitled [Real Americans](#). I told of the loss and heartbreak I felt when I saw the flags waving and heard the firecrackers. The loss of what we once had and what we have become was overwhelming. I regained hope with the election of President Donald J. Trump, but I still fear for my nation.

Commemoration to Soldiers

Decoration Day started with a commemoration to the fallen Union soldiers of the Civil War. In the South, southern ladies' groups commemorated the fallen soldiers on different days than the holiday of the north. However, by the 20th century, all American soldiers who had fallen in war were remembered on the last Monday in May, originally May 30th.

Decoration Day meant placing flowers on the graves of the fallen, but soon became a memorial for all family members who had passed. Those who know the real meaning of the holiday visit the cemeteries not only to decorate the graves of fallen American soldiers, those who served our country, but also to remember our deceased ancestors.



Decoration Day was officially changed to Memorial Day by Federal law in 1967. On June 28, 1968, the Congress passed the [Uniform Holidays Bill](#), which moved four holidays, including

Memorial Day, from their traditional dates to a specified Monday in order to create a convenient three-day weekend. The change moved Memorial Day from its traditional May 30th date to the last Monday in May. The law took effect at the federal level in 1971.

This has no doubt changed the tenor of the Remembrance Day into one of a spring-into-summer three-day weekend holiday, which has caused the solemn honor of the original commemoration to be lost. Japanese Nisei, Daniel Inouye, Hawaii's former Senator, and a WWII veteran had tried every year to return the holiday to May 30th.

Today, this holiday of commemoration has become one of barbeques, picnics, baseball and swimming. It no longer is a day of solemn remembrance of our nation's loss. When I think of all those who have served, I remember those in my own dear family.

Memorials

The Memorial Day flag is to be raised briskly to the top of the pole at dawn and then lowered to half-mast until noon. This is done in remembrance. At noon, the flag is again raised to the top of the pole for the remainder of the day.

My maternal grandfather served in the Army as a cook in WWI. His two sons, my mother's older and younger brothers, my uncles, both served in WWII in Europe and in Germany respectively. I remember my Uncle Bob telling me about how he hitchhiked across Czechoslovakia to see his cousin, Norm, who was also in the Army. Uncle Bob was a medic and he would never talk about his service in WWII.



My paternal grandfather graduated from the [Presidio](#) (officer's training) in 1917 with the Army Cavalry. I still have the humorously written program for his graduation dinner. His degrees were in international law and French. He married my grandmother that same year and went off to war. His older brother, James, was also a soldier in WWI. In a nine-page typewritten letter my great-grandfather, who was a Baptist preacher and physician, wrote to the church he founded in Bozeman, Montana, he mentioned how his wife worried and prayed for her two sons in France. Here is a photo of my grandfather

on his beloved horse, O'Hara.

My paternal grandfather remained in the military for many years. I obtained his military records through my former congressman. He was retired prior to WWII, but after Pearl Harbor and at the age of 50, he re-enlisted. He was in charge of a German prisoner-of-war camp for a year or so. The photos of this camp and the inmates look as though it was a great holiday for the Germans. These original photos were at my friend, Harry Mazal's Holocaust Library in San Antonio, Texas, but after Harry's death, the [University of Colorado Jewish Studies](#) bought the library. At the close of WWII, my grandfather, Colonel George Byron Morse, was in charge of the MPs at Nuremburg. His Army Cavalry uniform and his boots are also in Colorado along with documents and photos. Here is a photo of my dear friend Harry in his beloved library. My library is filled with books that Harry sent me that no one else could get.



The Nisei

After the war, my paternal grandparents were very concerned about the second-generation Japanese Americans who fought on our side during WWII, the Nisei. My grandmother, Stella Dolan

Morse, was the inspiration for a veteran's hall for them and the [Nisei Veterans' Memorial Hall](#) was born. My grandfather brought it to fruition and his picture still hangs prominently in their veteran organization.

The 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of approximately 14,000 Japanese American soldiers, became the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in American history. Among their many awards, they earned eight Presidential Citations, over 9,000 Purple Hearts, and 21 Medals of Honor.

The 100th/442nd fought many battles. One of the most historic was the Rescue of the Lost Battalion in October 1944, when the unit led a heroic drive through German lines in the Vosges Mountains to rescue 211 surviving soldiers of the 36th Texas Division. For this the governor of Texas named the Nisei soldiers "Honorary Texans."

In 1945, the courageous actions of the 100th/442nd were critical in breaking the German Gothic Line. They fought the Germans through intense combat and liberated towns such as Bruyeres, Biffontaine, and Belvedere. They also helped free Holocaust victims from Dachau concentration camp.

Approximately 6,000 Japanese Americans served in the Pacific Theater in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) of the US Army. These soldiers utilized their knowledge of the Japanese language and culture to defeat the Japanese military in the Pacific. General Douglas MacArthur's intelligence chief, Major General Charles A. Willoughby, estimated that these contributions shortened the war by at least two years and saved countless lives in the process. For this, the MIS was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation.

When my retired, aging, California grandparents needed assistance, the Japanese were there to help them in every way. At their funeral masses, the priests were both

Japanese. The eulogies from these brave Nisei are simply beautiful and showed what great love these Japanese American war heroes had for my paternal grandparents.

The Presidio Today

The Presidio today is nothing like what my grandfather would envision. Congress voted in 1989 to end the Presidio's status as an active military installation and on October 1, 1994, it was transferred to the National Park Service, ending 219 years of military use and beginning its next phase of mixed commercial and public use. Sadly, that use is now part and parcel of the UN Agenda 21 program of destroying national sovereignty and our liberties. In 1996, the [United States Congress](#) created the Presidio Trust to oversee and manage the interior 80% of the park's lands, with the National Park Service managing the coastal 20%.

In 1993, the [Gorbachev Foundation USA](#) was invited to sink roots at the Presidio as part of the post's conversion from the headquarters of the 6th U.S. Army to a national park.

From the website, [Mikhail Gorbachev, Creatively Marketing Global Communism](#), comes this statement regarding Gorbachev's [State of the World Forum](#), "Former Soviet Communist Party boss Mikhail Gorbachev, founder of the State of the World Forum six years ago, used a \$5,000 per person gathering of the world's political and business elite **to plea for the United Nations to adopt a Soviet-style "central authority" to manage the world's business and environmental concerns.**"

And this,

"The collapse of the Soviet Union as presented in the western media was a fraud. The Soviet Union didn't collapse and communism didn't die. They just reorganized, and we see it today in our American Congress. This is Gorby's goal for the United States...and that's what the UN program of regionalization is about. The movement is to dissolve the

United States as a nation and then to break it up into areas of regional governance under [an unelected continental government](#) similar to the European Union.”

If my grandparents on both sides, who fought in WWI and WWII for American freedoms knew of Gorbachev’s group in the Presidio, they would roll over in their graves. They would never have believed it would happen, nor would they ever have believed we’d be fighting undeclared wars and passing unconstitutional laws. Think about Obamacare, The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and the Patriot Act, to name just a few of the hundreds of thousands of illegal and unconstitutional laws, acts, and executive orders. My mother would never have believed it, much less my grandparents. In fact, my grandparents never even heard of a “Trillion-dollar debt,” which is now as high as \$22 trillion.

Undeclared Wars

To say it more succinctly, here is a letter my dear friend Ruth wrote in comment of the article, [The Price of Freedom](#), “This Memorial Day, I mourn the lives of the tens of thousands of our troops, who are maimed and disfigured. I mourn the lives of the troops still stuck in the hell holes of Afghanistan and Iraq and those engaged all around the world in illegal interventions and wars of aggression, greed and empire building. I grieve for the returning veterans, whose minds are so broken, upon contemplating the horrors they have witnessed and the true nature of these wars, they are committing suicide in shocking numbers. Those who gave all, may be the lucky ones.

Unfortunately, these brave young men and women are not fighting for our freedom; they know it, and you know it. They are fighting to stay alive. They are mere pawns of the Military Industrial Complex. We need to follow what President Trump said, and bring all of them home now.”

This is what President Trump said he wanted to do, and it is why when he said the troops in Syria were to come home, General Mattis signed the order, but then resigned from the Trump administration. We have an enemy on our soil, and we are not fighting that enemy.

We need those soldiers not just on our southern border, but we need them educated by men like [General Michael T. Flynn](#) who knows how we can win the global war against radical Islam and its allies. Former FBI Agent, John Guandolo of [Understanding the Threat](#) is an amazing resource who can help us save our country from infiltration and destruction.

Conclusion

I grieve for my nation, for her soul, and for her people who are too busy watching Dancing with the Stars and American Idol to see what has happened to our beloved country and who daily fail to fight to keep the freedoms our founders gave us.

I grieve because we've thrown God out of every facet of American society. I grieve because we think nothing of murdering 60 million babies in their mothers' wombs. I grieve because I see the losses. I grieve because I know too much, and I grieve because so few are fighting to save her...our once great America and her God-given freedoms. I grieve, I mourn, and I weep and I'm still fighting to save her. Unless more Americans stand up for truth, righteousness, liberty and freedom, I'm afraid all is lost. Dear God in heaven, I grieve, and I keep working and praying.

This Decoration Day, remember all those who gave everything, remember those who came home hurt both physically and mentally, remember all our veterans, and help them, not just with prayers, but with funds that care for these men and women who have served our country willingly. There are countless wonderful organizations that help our soldiers...give to them, and in so doing, you give to those who need it the most.

Remember those who gave all...please!

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