



National Military Appreciation Month 2020

In 1999 Senator John McCain introduced legislation to designate the month of May as National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM). Both the Senate and House of Representatives adopted resolutions calling for Americans to recognize and honor U.S. Service Members during NMAM. These proclamations also urge the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe NMAM.

NMAM is celebrated every May and is a declaration that encourages U.S. citizens to observe the month in a symbol of unity. NMAM honors the current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom. The month of May is characterized by national observances which highlight the contributions of those who have served.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Date: Friday, May 8th, 2020. Traditionally set for the Friday before Mother's Day.

About: A day to honor military spouses with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Recognizes the important role our military families play in keeping our Armed Forces strong and our country safe.

Armed Forces Day

Date: Saturday, May 16th, 2020. Celebrated the third Saturday in May every year.

About: A single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. This day honors everyone serving in the U.S. Military branches; Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, Space Force. There is also Armed Forces Week which typically leads up to Armed Forces Day, although it is not an official observance, many activities are planned nonetheless during the week.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day began sometime after the Civil War with both formal and informal ceremonies at graves and ceremonies for the soldiers who had fallen in battle. Many places claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866, including Waterloo, New York and both Macon and Columbus, Georgia. On May 5, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a Union veterans' organization, established Decoration Day, May 30, as a time for the nation to decorate the dead with flowers. Arlington National Cemetery held the first large observance later that year.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held throughout the country on May 30. Over time, the Army and Navy adopted policies for proper observances, and state legislatures passed proclamations designating the day. After World War I the day was expanded to honor those who died in all American wars, and in 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday in May.

Date: Monday, May 25th, 2020. A Federal holiday observed on the last Monday in May.

About: A remembrance of our veterans. Commemorates the men and women who died while in military service. Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 25, 2020

Memorial Day Activities & Events to Honor Those Who Died

- Visit cemeteries and memorials.
- Attend Memorial Day ceremonies.
- Volunteer to place an American Flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

- Pay tribute to the U.S. men and women who died during military service by observing a national moment of remembrance with a minute of silence at 3:00 PM local time.
- Attend a Memorial Day parade, festival, fair or concert such as the National Memorial Day Concert. Many will be canceled because of COVID -19 this year.
- Run for charity on Memorial Day weekend.
- Volunteer to support events such as the National Memorial Day Parade.
- Donate to veterans and military support groups.

I attended training led by John C. Maxwell, I learned these perspectives that we can apply in our lives and encourage other people to apply in theirs.

1. Everything Worthwhile is Uphill - we are not given an overcoming life; we are given life as we overcome. It is the wrong perspective to think that life should be easy—life is anything but easy! However, if we are willing to do the hard things, they compound in value over time to create a life we could have never imagined.

2. There is always an Answer—we are learning so many lessons through this crisis. The greatest gap between Successful and Unsuccessful People is their thinking. Successful people live on the other side of yes, and as a result find answers others miss.

3. Allow Adversity to Help You Discover Who You Really Are—often, people do not see themselves clearly. When their comfort zone is dismantled and their usual supports fall away, they lose the illusion of who they think they should be and are brought face to face with who they really are.

Sometimes it takes a crisis to introduce us to ourselves, but we will rarely regret the introduction. This season of crisis might just be the catalyst for you becoming the person you are meant to be!

Strength in Unity!

The Voice of the Enlisted

Lady Sunny Wirth

Grand Knight