

The Act of Keeping a Nation Free

The pain of saying goodbye to someone who's heading to serve America in another country isn't only heartbreaking but it's also agitating knowing that the possibly that one day you'll receive the letter that tells you that they passed away while serving the country. That is a pain that's among many other unbearable pains. So why don't people appreciate those who fight for our freedom on Memorial Day? Memorial Day isn't a day simply made to head down to the lake and grill, it's a day to appreciate that you have more freedom than most people do.

Some people who don't appreciate Memorial Day simply just don't understand the meaning of it. Put simply, Memorial Day is a day to appreciate the people who work so hard to protect our country, those people who try so hard not to lose their lives while protecting ours. Without being a big or important holiday like Easter or Mother's Day, Memorial Day often gets thrown under the rug and ignored. People have previously made acts to make Memorial Day more appreciated or noticed, such as a woman named Moina Michael, she attempted to make Memorial Day noticed by wearing a red poppy on her clothing. In the website article *Memorial Day History* it states that, "She conceived the idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war." Moina's goal was to spread awareness of Memorial Day and fallen soldiers by wearing a red poppy on her clothing. In another online article *The Story Behind the Remembrance Poppy* it states that, "The spring of 1915 was the first time that warm weather began to warm up the countryside after the cold winter at war in 1914-1915. ... One of the plants that began to grow in clusters on and around the battle zones was the red field or corn poppy." The red poppy became the symbol of Memorial

Day due to its history during the war. People should make Memorial Day more noticed by continuing old traditions, such as wearing a red poppy like Moina did, or attend a memorial parade or service that's held on Memorial Day, or even visit a veteran's home to talk to past veterans. Some type of action should be taken to have people appreciate Memorial Day more, and not a day by the lakeside.

Instead of taking your freedom for granted like most do, take advantage of Memorial Day, use it to appreciate those who have served you and passed while protecting our country. Pay your respects to the ones who have passed, thank their family members, and remember that your freedom is maintained by men and women who fight for their lives and yours so that you can stay safe here in the United States.

Bibliography:

Website: http://www.usmemorialday.org/?page_id=2

- Information on the poem that started the act of wearing red poppies for Memorial Day as well as information on Moina Michael, who had an impact on Memorial Day Poppy Wearing.

Website: <https://www.sba.gov/blogs/5-ways-honor-military-memorial-day>

- Information on ways to celebrate and appreciate our veterans and fallen soldiers that anyone can do.

Website: <http://www.greatwar.co.uk/article/remembrance-poppy.htm>