

## **Decoration Day: What we all know is Today Memorial Day**

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The 30th of May in 1868, was as most of us know, established as Decoration Day by GAR CinC General John A. Logan. His famous order #11 is usually read, cited or quoted at most Memorial Day celebrations throughout our nation. Every year on the Monday closest to May 30th, we observe and honor our Veterans, living and deceased by parades, ceremonies and prayers.

I would say though, that too many Americans do not always reflect on what this Day really means. I myself know many people that look at this day as a "Holiday" in the sense of a free day to add to a long weekend. In the 1970's The United States Congress officially changed the observance of Memorial Day from the 30th of May to the closest Monday near that date. In my humble opinion, this detracts from the true significance of this sacred day and its meaning to our Nation and its History. It is important that all of us reflect on what we have as freedom as Americans. As it has been said many times "Freedom is not Free". It has been paid for, and continues to be so by The Men and Women of our Armed Forces, past, present and into the future. Our National Conscience must always be aware of the sacrifices made by our Country thru the service of all our Veterans.

**We as Brothers in The Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War have a special duty to honor these brave men and women. Participate in as many ceremonies, parades, schools, and remembrances as you can. We as an organization of Patriotic Legacy must help keep alive not only The Memories of our "Boys in Blue" but also all ideals of what all Veterans of all Eras have done for our protection and wellbeing.**

**This is really a very simple message: Honor those who keep us free from War and Tyranny. They give us the Peace and Liberty we all have here at home in These United States of America. We can never forget them or what they have done for us all. As President Abraham Lincoln so eloquently stated in his Second Inaugural Address on March 4th, 1865 "...let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the Nation's wounds; to care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan----to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."**

**LEST WE FORGET!**