

My Memorial Day Tribute
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As I reflect over this past Memorial Day weekend, I continue to ponder the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform. To some, this special day that we celebrate the last Monday in May marks the beginning of the summer holidays in the United States. This three-day weekend traditionally is a time for celebration and family outings, but as a recently retired Army officer of 26 years, it means a little more to me than just firing up the grill to cook hotdogs and hamburgers.

Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day was established in 1868 to commemorate the dead from the Civil War. Over the years it came to serve as a day to remember all U.S. men and women killed or missing in action in all wars. We owe these men and women our gratitude and respect for paying the ultimate sacrifice, and I will never forget what they have done and what it means to this great nation of ours. So this is “My Memorial Day Tribute” to these true American heroes whom I call real “Leaders.”

These men and women are “**Leaders**” because they answered the call when their country called upon them to serve.

These men and women are “**Leaders**” because they did not waffle, whine, nor cry when they deployed to these foreign and dangerous lands.

These men and women are “**Leaders**” because they left their loved ones knowing that they may not ever see them again.

These men and women are “**Leaders**” because they believed in a cause, and that cause was to protect the rights and freedom of every American in this country.

These men and women are “**Leaders**” because they were not seeking some fame and glory they just wanted to serve.

These men and women who served are, in my opinion, the real heroes and real leaders. We can never forget the sacrifices they made for this country of ours, and I am proud to call them my brothers- and sisters-in-arms!

So during this special time, please take a moment to remember all of those who have given their lives in service to their country. For those of you who still serve, I honor you, and hope that you remain safe. God Bless you!