

May Edition: The True Meaning of Memorial Day



Remembering Our Heroes



Military families of fallen heroes see empty seats at their Memorial Day BBQ's. Reach out to them. Pray. And thank God for our blood-bought freedom in the USA. Here's a dose of reality that will prompt your patriotic heart to further appreciate their sacrifice:

U.S. Army Specialist Jordan C. Schumann loved his country with all his heart. When asked about his favorite holiday, he'd readily respond with "the 4th of July! Jordan was so proud to serve his country.

On July 5, 2011, he was stationed in Afghanistan. On that day, Jordan was driving out to aid and assist another squad. Tragically, his truck hit a massive improvised explosive device: At only 24 years old, he died on July 5 -one day after his favorite holiday. And, at the time of his death, his wife was expecting their first child.

Jordan's precious mom, Linda Schumann, said it best: "Memorial Day, for me, is the day to go to Arlington and stand and look at my son's tombstone and know that everybody there was willing to give their life for me."

Indeed, Memorial Day offers each of us an opportunity to appreciate the sacrifice and reach out to military families. It is a time when we remember these brave men and women who willingly died for freedom. They died so that we may live in peace and safety.

Another moving true story is that of Karen Zook, another Gold Star mom. Her son was Ian Zook, a Marine who bravely died for our country. Ian served in Iraq. One day, he was in the lead Humvee on its way to rescue wounded soldiers. Suddenly, he was ambushed. And he was killed by three anti-tank mines buried in the road. They detonated directly underneath him. It was horrific.

Like Linda Schumann, Karen accurately described the true meaning of Memorial Day: "It is not barbecues, it is not hot dogs, it is not a family get-together... It is a solemn holiday where you honor those who laid down their lives for our nation. I am very proud of my son. To me, he's my hero." To that, we add: He's our hero, too. Every single man and woman who has given the ultimate sacrifice should be everyone's hero/heroine.

From the War of Independence to the present day, over 1.1 million Americans have died in war. Think about it: All those men and women were dads, moms, sons, daughters, sisters and/or brothers. Each left behind heartbroken families.

It is a heavy realization that each one selflessly fought and died for us. They did not die in vain. They died so that freedom can ring. We must echo that to all of our loved ones -including kids, teens, etc.

As Christian millennials on a mission, we desire to change the tide of apathy to a wave of appreciation and outreach full of God's love for veterans and military families. Please join us as we pray and continue to do this throughout the year.

Indeed, may this Memorial Day cause us to remember the selflessness, the grit, and the courage of our current servicemen and women and veterans. Please read the below true stories of heroes who willingly gave their lives to save their comrades and defend freedom. Share these stories with your family and friends.

Such true stories really teach and motivate others to do the right thing. Again, please share.

In closing, may we all slowly and deeply think about the words of Christ: "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

God bless you,
Carrie Stoelting and Stacie Stoelting
Sisters and Founders of Unite the USA

Stacie and Carrie On the Radio



Stacie and Carrie will be on radio shows to talk about Operation Honor Heroes!

1. Hear the Stacie and Carrie on ***The David Webb Show*** on **Sirius XM Patriot** Monday, May 28 at 10:05 A.M. Central
2. Stacie and Carrie will be on **WHO with Simon Conway** on Monday, May 28 at 6:00 P.M. Central.

3. Listen to Stacie and Carrie's interview on **American Family Radio (Today's Issues)**.



Operation Honor Heroes

Operation Honor Heroes is a national effort to give tribute where tribute is due. Our outreach called Operation Honor Heroes is associated with Unite the USA. It has a two-fold mission:

1. To honor and thank our veterans and their families
2. To educate America's children on the work and sacrifices our veterans have done for us

HOW TO PARTICIPATE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We would appreciate the opportunity to honor your loved ones who have served. We will post a picture and accompanying information on our web site and social media. Thank you so much!

1. E-mail a picture of your loved one who served to info@unitetheusa.org.
2. Include your loved one's name, military branch, rank, and years of service.
3. Let us know if you would like other key information shared as well.

5 WAYS TO HONOR HEROES

1. Let us help you honor the heroes in your life. If you have a loved one who is a veteran or who is currently in the military, send Stacie and Carrie his or her picture, name, military branch, rank to info@unitetheusa.org. Unite the USA will post the information online as a way to honor and thank them.

2. Be sure to set aside time to thank our heroes.

Thank them in person, on the phone, in a card, or through an e-mail.

3. During the summer months, many veterans and servicemen and women march in local parades. **A good time to reach out and thank them is after the parade. Watch for their military distinctions on their jackets and hats.** Just earnestly thank them. They will appreciate your appreciation.

4. Don't forget our hospitalized heroes or elderly veterans in nursing homes. Send a colorful card, send a gift, or stop by and visit. Note: [In God We Still Trust](#) and [Unite the USA](#) make great gift ideas! :)

5. Invite a veteran to dinner, send a gift card to their favorite restaurant, or order/deliver a meal for them. Take him or a her a gift. Just do something to show that you care and that you are grateful for their service.

5 WAYS TO TEACH KIDS ABOUT VETERANS

1. For starters, begin with the basics. Explain what a veteran is and what that means. Children's book on the subject can be helpful in the teaching process. [Click here](#) for children's book options that are about veterans and patriotism. Visit your local library for more ideas.

2. Tell your kids about friends or family members who have served our country. Show them pictures to make it more real and meaningful.

3. Introduce your kids to veterans. If you have a friend or relative who served, make sure your child has the opportunity to meet him/her.

4. Attend a parade together. Often veterans are honored in parades. Afterwards is a great time to meet and thank them.

5. With your child, write a thank you card or color a picture to give to a veteran. It means so much to veterans to be remembered -especially by children...They are the future.

The True Meaning of Memorial Day



Gold Star Moms Karen Zook and Linda Schumann share about their sons and the true meaning of Memorial Day.



Memorial Day: Remembering our fallen heroes and their families and friends

Featured Quote



"On Memorial Day, our nation honors those who not only served, but who gave the full measure of valor -their very lives- for this great nation. It is important for Americans to understand that these men and women gave everything serving this country and defending a Constitution that guarantees freedom for all people inside these United States."

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) William G. "Jerry" Boykin

This Month's Bible Verse

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." **John 15:13**



In Memory of Heroes



Isaac C. Kidd

WWII

(March 26, 1884 - December 7, 1941)

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Rear Admiral Isaac C. Kidd rushed to his flag ship, the USS Arizona. As a dedicated commanding officer, he refused to abandon ship while his men were in danger. He remained faithful to his duties and showed tremendous leadership until the bridge of the ship was hit by an enemy bomb; killing him instantly. Rear Admiral Kidd was the first Navy flag officer to die in combat. The only trace of Rear Admiral Kidd found by rescuers was his Naval Academy ring that was fused to a bulkhead on the Arizona's bridge.



John Basilone

WWII

(November 4, 1916 - February 19, 1945)

Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone was among the Marines at Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. When the Marines' advance was delayed by Japanese fire from a blockhouse, Basilone led an attack to abolish the enemy position. Basilone led the Marines forward near the Motoyama Number One airfield. While he went to get reinforcements, he ordered the Marines to hold the ground "come hell or high water". As Basilone ran forward with a new group of Marines, a mortar exploded in their midst --killing him instantly.



John James Powers
WWII
(July 3, 1912 - May 8, 1942)

Lt. John James Powers was a Naval aviator in the Battle of the Coral Sea. His goal was to make sure he sank as many enemy ships as possible. In order to do that, Lt. Powers would dive within feet of the enemy before releasing his payload. He was fully aware that flying that low was suicide, but he had deemed winning this battle to be more important than his own life. The last time he was seen, he had just sunk a Japanese carrier when his plane was shot down and killed him.



Edward "Butch" O'Hare
WWII
(March 13, 1914 - November 26, 1943)

On February 20, 1942, nine Japanese bombers were on their way to destroy the American aircraft carrier Lexington, but one man stood in the way: Butch O'Hare. He had .50 caliber guns on his aircraft (F4F Wildcat) but only had enough ammunition to last about 34 seconds of firing. If he missed, his aircraft would be destroyed. O'Hare single-handedly shot down five enemy bombers and disabled a sixth. As a result, he saved his ship. It was one of the most daring actions in combat aviation history. O'Hare continued to serve his country until November 1943 when he was killed in action. The O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Illinois is named in his honor.



John R. Fox
WWII
(May 18, 1915 - December 26, 1944)

First Lieutenant John Fox was a member of the famed Buffalo Soldiers. In December 1944, a German battalion attacked the Allied position in a small village in Northern Italy. Fox bravely volunteered to stay behind to direct artillery. The Germans continued to advance until they were directly on top of Fox's position. Fox radioed his men to fire. The men objected because they knew Fox would be killed. Fox knew that he would die, but he responded with two words: "Fire it!" John Fox gave his life so his fellow soldiers could live.



The 5 Sullivan Brothers
WWII

1. George Sullivan, 27, Gunner's Mate Second Class
2. Francis "Frank" Sullivan, 25, Coxswain
3. Joseph "Joe" Sullivan, 23, Seaman Second Class
4. Madison "Matt" Sullivan, 22, Seaman Second Class
5. Albert "Al" Sullivan, 19, Seaman Second Class

The Sullivan brothers were natives of Waterloo, Iowa. They all enlisted on January 3, 1942 with the condition that they serve together. (At the time the Navy had a policy of separating siblings, but the policy was not strictly enforced.) The Sullivan brothers' motto was, "We stick together."

Tragically, all five brothers were killed when their ship the USS Juneau (CL-52) was sunk by a Japanese submarine. The Juneau fought in several naval engagements during the months-long Battle of Guadalcanal. However, on November 13, 1942 the carrier was hit by a torpedo and had to withdraw. As it was leaving the Solomon Islands' area later that day, the Juneau was struck again. This time, it was hit from a torpedo by Japanese submarine I-26. The Juneau quickly sank. Rescue efforts were delayed due the Japanese continued presence in the area. Eight days later ten survivors were retrieved from the water. The survivors reported that Frank, Joe, and Matt Sullivan were killed instantly. Al drowned the following day and George lived for four or five days.

The death of the five Sullivan brothers was so horrible it forced the U.S. War Department to adopt "The Sole Survivor Policy" so it would never happen again. The searing heartache that the Sullivan family suffered is truly unimaginable.

The Navy named two destroyers The Sullivans to honor the brothers: The Sullivans (DDG-68) and The Sullivans (DD-537). They were the first U.S. navy ships to be named after more than one person.



Joe R. Baldonado
Korean War
(August 28, 1930 - November 25, 1950)

Corporal Joe R. Baldonado was in North Korea when his unit came under heavy attack at 4:00 A.M., two days after Thanksgiving. Within two hours, his platoon had used up most of their ammunition and they were in imminent danger of being overrun.

Baldonado willingly risked his own life and placed his machine gun in an exposed position. His plan worked and caused the enemy to fall back. The Communists realized that he was one stubborn machine gunner and that he was the cause of why they were losing momentum. So they concentrated all their firepower on Baldonado. Nevertheless, he wouldn't stop! He continued firing even as grenades exploded all around him. The enemy made repeated attempts to storm his position, but they discovered that each attempt caused many casualties thanks to Baldonado. The enemy finally withdrew, but not before a grenade landed by Baldonado which killed him instantly.

During the Korean War, Baldonado and other brave servicemen like him helped slow the enemy's advance. By early 1951, the battle lines were in the general area of what is today the demilitarized zone.



Leslie H. Sabo Jr.
Vietnam War
(February 22, 1948-May 10, 1970)

Army Specialist Leslie H. Sabo Jr. near the village of Se San in eastern Cambodia. On May 10, 1970 his unit was ambushed by North Vietnamese forces. Sabo was a rifleman.

Sabo charged up from the back, grabbed an enemy grenade and tossed it away. He used his body to shield a fellow soldier.

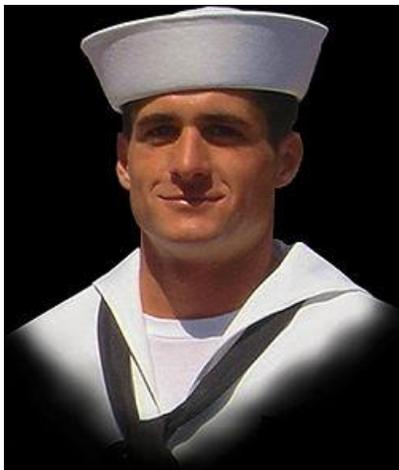
Disregarding his own injuries, he crawled straight toward an enemy bunker, even as the bullets hit the ground all around him. Then, he grabbed a grenade and he pulled the pin. Sabo held the grenade until the last possible moment because he could stop the

deadly bunker and save lives -except his own. He knew it would take his own life but that it would save his comrades and that meant more to him.



Captain Stephen R. Phillis
Operation Desert Storm
May 17, 1960 - February 15, 1991

On February 15, 1991, Captain Stephen R. Phillis and his wingman Robert James Sweet were sent on a mission into Iraq to bomb the enemy. They went 80 miles further than any other A-10 had gone before. After completing their mission, Phillis and Sweet were flying back to the Saudi border when Sweet's plane was hit by enemy fire. One of the plane's engines was damaged and his plane became difficult to control. Sweet knew he needed to eject: He radioed his plan to Phillis and then ejected the plane. In response, Phillis turned his plane back to try to determine his wingman's exact location. (That way, a search could be conducted with greater precision and speed.) As he was doing so, Phillis was hit by intense enemy fire and had no time to eject. His plane crashed. God bless the memory of this brave captain.



Michael Monsoor
Operation Iraqi Freedom
(April 5, 1981-September 29, 2006)

Navy SEAL Mike Monsoor and his two teammates climbed to rooftop positions during a firefight in Ramadi, a Sunni insurgent stronghold west of Baghdad. Suddenly, an insurgent grenade bounced off Monsoor's chest. It landed on the roof.

Monsoor looked at it. He had two choices: escape and live yet watch his two comrades die, or die in their place. We'll let President Bush's speech reveal what happened as he quoted one of the survivors:

"Mikey looked death in the face that day and said, 'You cannot take my brothers. I will go in there instead.' In that terrible moment, he had two options-to save himself, or to save his

friends. For Mike, this was no choice at all. He threw himself onto the grenade and absorbed the blast with his body."

He chose to stay. They lived. He died. He died for his comrades, but -ultimately- he died for his country.

May God bless the families of these heroes.

Honoring the Honorable

We give tribute to our military, past and present:

The American Revolution 1775-1783

The Indian Wars
1775-1890

Shay's Rebellion
1786-1787

The Whiskey Rebellion 1794

Quasi-War With France 1798-1800

Fries's Rebellion
1799

The Barbary Wars
1800-1815

The War of 1812
1812-1815

Mexican-American War 1846-1848

U.S. Slave Rebellions 1800-1865

"Bleeding Kansas"
1855-1860

Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry - 1859

United States Civil War 1861-1865

U.S. Intervention in Hawaiian Revolution -1893

The Spanish-American War - 1898

U.S. Intervention in Samoan Civil War
1898-1899

U.S.-Philippine War
1899-1902

Boxer Rebellion - 1900

The Moro Wars
1901-1913

U.S. Intervention in Panamanian Revolution 1903

The Banana Wars
1909-1933

U.S. Occupation of Vera Cruz - 1914

Pershing's Raid Into Mexico - 1916-1917

World War I - 1914-1918

Allied Intervention in Russian Civil War
1919-1921

World War II - 1941-1945

The Cold War - 1945-1991

The Korean War
1950-1953

Vietnam War - 1956-1975

U.S. Intervention in Lebanon - 1958

Dominican Intervention 1965

Iranian Hostage Rescue 1980 (April 25)

U.S. Libya Conflict
1981, 1986

U.S. Intervention in Lebanon - 1982-1984

U.S. Invasion of Grenada 1983

"Operation Earnest Will" 1987-1988

U.S. Invasion of Panama 1989

Second Persian Gulf War "Operation Desert Storm" 1991

"No-Fly Zone" War
1991-2003

U.S. Intervention in Somalia - 1992-1994

NATO Intervention in Bosnia (Operation Deliberate Force) Summary - 1994-1995

U.S. Occupation of Haiti 1994

U.S. Embassy bombings and strikes on Afghanistan and Sudan (The bin Laden War) - August, 1998

"Desert Fox" Campaign (part of U.S./Iraq Conflict) December, 1998

Kosovo War - 1999

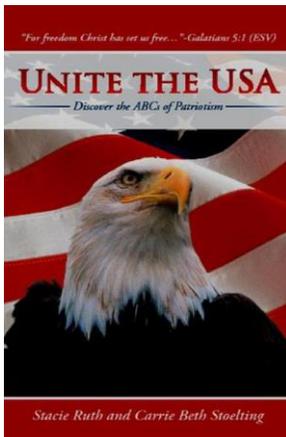
Attack on the USS Cole October 12, 2000

Attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon September 11, 2001

Afghanistan War (Operation Enduring Freedom)
October 7, 2001-Present

"Operation Iraqi Freedom" March 19, 2003-2011

Order Now



Unite the USA: Discover the ABCs of Patriotism is a new book by **Stacie Ruth and Carrie Beth Stoelting**. It's a book that empowers patriots to make a big difference in the land we love. With 100+ ways to make a positive difference in America, *Unite the USA* is a must-have tool for patriots. *Unite the USA* will inspire and educate Americans to defend faith and freedom. (Important Note: All proceeds go to fund the mission of UnitetheUSA.org.) [Order it here today!](#)

In God We Still Trust
an inspiring album dedicated to God and veterans
by Stacie and Carrie Stoelting



Per request from veterans who love patriotic and inspiring music sung by Stacie and Carrie, [In God We Still Trust](#) was recorded. From the National Anthem to "God Bless America" you will be inspired and uplifted about our God-given freedoms. All proceeds go to Unite the USA. Help promote faith and freedom in America. Your support is important and appreciated. [Buy or download a copy today.](#) God bless you as you celebrate the red, white, and blue!

In God We Still Trust Video

Our country needs to turn to Jesus. Listen to "In God We Still Trust" for inspiration to keep "fighting the good fight". For hope and encouragement, listen to Stacie Ruth and Carrie Beth sing "In God We Still Trust".



Share and Sign Up

Be sure to share this edition with your friends. Sign up for Unite the USA's free monthly e-mail [here!](#)

Booking Info



Celebrate the true spirit of America with Carrie Beth and Stacie Ruth. Book Stacie and Carrie for concert or conference! E-mail info@unitetheusa.org for more information.