

## MEMORIAL DAY

It's approaching. We can see it on the horizon and sense its arrival. Memorial Day, the day that harkens the impending arrival of warmer weather and eventually, Summer. The day that kicks off the warm weather season and all those things that traditionally take place on this day. A time for planting the flower beds, for that first round of golf, a day on the lake fishing, the family gathering, a parade, a picnic, a cook out and a day to take advantage of innumerable sales offered by local merchants and malls.

Leading up to the day itself you may recall seeing TV spots showing the happy arrivals of military personnel returning home. Husbands and wives, children and family members welcoming their loved ones. Sometimes the returning member surprises a child by walking into a classroom or practice field unannounced, only to share the child's unbounded love. This day, however, is not for those who have returned or will return. It has been established to honor those whose return was in a casket covered by the flag of a grateful nation. These fallen will never again share the love of family or friends.

The families of the fallen have sustained the loss of a child, a spouse, a sibling, a parent; the list goes on and on. The truth is that when a person in the service makes the ultimate sacrifice, the surviving family and friends have sustained a loss that will be with them forever.

So, this Memorial Day, when you are doing those usual things associated with the holiday, pause, give thanks and even offer a prayer for those who served, who fought, and who died.

The third verse of America The Beautiful expresses the thought for whom this day is reserved:

**“O Beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self  
their country loved and mercy more than life!**

William Clark, Council Chair