

National Moment of Remembrance

An act of American unity in a shared *moment of remembrance* for our fallen heroes

- When:** Along with other Americans, you are asked to spend a *moment of remembrance* on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. local time (duration: one minute). The time 3:00 p.m. was chosen because it is the time when many Americans are enjoying their freedoms on the national holiday. The *Moment* does not replace the traditional Memorial Day observances. It is intended to be a unifying act of remembrance for Americans of all ages.
- What:** As you participate in this *Moment* you are helping reclaim Memorial Day for the noble and sacred reason for which it was intended—to honor those who died in service to our Nation.
- Who:** Americans of every age are invited to participate.
- Where:** You may pause for the *Moment* wherever you happen to be, whether alone or with others.
- How:** Participation is voluntary and informal. You may observe in your own way a *Moment* of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever you are doing for a moment of silence or listening to Taps.
- You may, however, organize the observance more formally at such places as your neighborhood, local pool, picnic grounds, etc., for one minute of remembrance. You may ring a bell to signify the beginning and the end of the *Moment* or may tune into a local radio station that is observing the *Moment* with the playing of “Taps.” If you are driving a vehicle, you may turn on your headlights.
- Why:** To remind all Americans of the importance of remembering those who sacrificed for their freedom and what it means to be an American.
- To provide Americans throughout the world an opportunity to join this expression of gratitude in an act of unity.
- To make Memorial Day relevant, especially to younger Americans.
- Background:** In May 1996, the idea of the *Moment* was born when children touring Washington, D.C., were asked what Memorial Day meant. They responded, “that’s the day the pools open!”
- On December 28, 2000, by P.L. 106-579, the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance was established. The *Moment* has the personal support of the President of the United States.