



CWU (Tampa HQ)

31 May 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR CWU

FROM: CEO/Chairman of the Board

SUBJECT: Memorial Day Message 2021

Today, May 31, 2021, our nation will take time to recognize the ultimate sacrifices that duty has demanded of members of our United States Military. And though we can never thank them enough, we can certainly take time, today, to remember those we have lost in their service to our nation.

As this Memorial Day is upon us, let us reflect on the words of James A. Garfield, the 20th President of The United States of America.

“For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue.” – James A. Garfield

President Garfield served in the American Civil War, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and died of assassination wounds on September 19, 1881 while serving as President of the United States. For him, there was no greater privilege than having faithfully served his country.

Memorial Day commemorates the men and women who died while in the military service of our great nation, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. The true purpose of Memorial Day is to memorialize the veterans who made the “ultimate sacrifice” for their country. We spend time remembering those who lost their lives and could not come home, reflecting on their service and why we have the luxury and freedom that we enjoy today. We all should consider how we can support and safeguard the grieving families and loved ones who are left behind.

While the specific origin of Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was first known, is unclear; the day embodied the custom of honoring ancestors by cleaning cemeteries and decorating graves; an ancient and worldwide tradition.

In early rural America, this duty was usually performed in late summer and was an annual occasion for family reunions and picnics. Post U.S. Civil War, America’s need for a secular, patriotic ceremony to honor its military dead became prominent, as monuments to fallen soldiers were erected and dedicated, and ceremonies centering on the decoration of soldiers’ graves were held in towns and cities throughout the nation. And, after World War I, the day expanded to honor those military servicemembers who died in all American wars.

Over time, numerous locations have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, and states observed the holiday on a variety of different dates. In 1971, Memorial Day became a national holiday by an act of Congress; it is now celebrated annually on the last Monday in May.

Personally, Memorial Day is a time-honored tradition in our family as I am seven generations of military service members dating back to the 1775 American Revolutionary War. It is a solemn time of reflection to remember those I served with that died in the call of duty defending our precious freedom. Additionally, for more than 40 years, I have had the distinctive privilege of serving with, supporting, and observing America’s sons and daughters performing tough missions in tough places during times of peace, crisis, and



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war including Afghanistan, Iraq, Republic of Korea, Latin America, and other locations throughout the Middle East. No matter how much our country has asked of them, they have delivered even with their lives. Our military and veterans have selflessly served with dedication, honor, and quiet courage that have long been tried traits of America's men and women in uniform.

As the founder and CEO of CWU, I have seen the same commitment, drive, and resolve among our firm's staff and employees, of which more than 25% are veterans of the Armed Forces. Almost all of our employees, veterans and non-veterans, have supported and served alongside our men and women in uniform during the course of the long, hard campaigns of the past twenty years and we have lost personnel from our industry during the course of their duties supporting our military. We too should take time today to remember those professional colleagues we have lost in the line of duty.

The pandemic over the past year has prevented me and Susan the honor of visiting our staff that support our men and women serving in the military worldwide, many of whom are veterans themselves of recent combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, in addition to, many who have supported U.S. Military theater operations as program management, linguists, and cultural subject matter experts. Over the next year, we look forward to visiting our programs in the field and the opportunity to spend time with our veterans, military, and professional staff.

On Memorial Day 2021, we pay tribute to all who have given the "ultimate sacrifice" protecting America's promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We honor those who have died carrying the fight to America's adversaries. Having courageously paying the ultimate price securing our country's freedom and advancing its interests in the world, they have earned our deepest gratitude and respect. May God bless their families, loved ones and the United States of America.



Charles L. Jenkins
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