



CHAPLAIN / MEMORIAL

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MAY, 2026

In the month of May, we celebrate two very special holidays ~ Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Mother's Day is a day to honor and celebrate our mothers. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day be held on the second Sunday in May.

Memorial Day honors those who have died while serving in our country's armed forces. In recent years more and more people also use this day to recognize all veterans who have died as well. Its first national observance was in 1868, and it was referred to as Decoration Day. After World War I, the name changed to Memorial Day and in 1971 it became a federal holiday.

I have fond memories as a Junior Auxiliary member participating in the placement of flags on each of the veteran graves in our local cemeteries. We volunteered alongside our SAL members, Boy and Girl Scouts and many members of the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion in our local community. Many of the gravestones were from the Civil War. What an extreme honor it was to place a flag to recognize their service to our country. The cemetery was very large and it took us about 5 days prior to Memorial Day to place all of the flags (we did this for about 3 hours each night). I don't know why, but removal of the flags a week later went so much faster – I guess we were all fascinated in reading the hundreds of names and dates on the gravestones. I hope that each of you has traditions that you continue to participate in to honor our deceased veterans on this most important day.



The Allegheny Cemetery Soldiers' Lot in Pittsburgh, PA.



**Gracious God,
On this Mother's Day,
We give thanks for loving
Mothers and all who mother
Your beautiful creation.
Bring comfort to all who struggle with this day.
Surround us now and always with your deep, unending love.
Amen**



**Dear Father, as we remember, grieve,
and honor those who were willing to
give up their lives, we praise Your
name for giving our fallen the
strength to carry on, the will to
protect our nation and the conviction
to do what's right. We praise You for
the peace you've given our nation and
thank You for these brave and
faithful men and women.
In Your name we pray. Amen.**