

Throughout history there have been wars. Starting out in about 2700 BC, people have had conflicts that lead to battles and deaths. Memorial Day is a time to remember those who died in battle or war fighting for the US military.

Memorial Day first became a federal holiday in 1971. However, it originated far earlier. In the mid 1860s, after the civil war, many Americans in countless cities and towns, started holding remembrance ceremonies for all those who died in the Civil War. After a few years, lots of cities and towns took part in remembering fallen soldiers, but one city in particular shared very similar customs of celebrating compared to what we do today. Waterloo, NY celebrated an annual event where businesses closed and people decorated their houses and gravestones with flowers and flags. As a result of how Waterloo celebrated and how similar it is to how we celebrate now, the federal government made Waterloo, NY the official birthplace of Memorial Day.

As the custom of celebrating Memorial Day passed on, the government needed to make some changes. Originally, Memorial Day was used to celebrate those who died in the Civil War, but when the US entered WWI the government didn't want to leave out those who died in it. So, Memorial Day became known as the day to remember anyone who died in *any* war. Also, the federal government changed when Memorial Day would be held. They made Memorial day the last Monday of May so that people could have a three day weekend.

In summary, Memorial Day is a day for remembering all US soldiers who died in battle. We as a country should be extremely grateful for all those who died to help the helpless, voiceless, and the rightless.