

## MEMORIAL DAY PRAYERS

### HEAR OUR PRAYERS THIS DAY

BY AUSTIN FLEMING

In the quiet sanctuaries of our own hearts,  
let each of us name and call on the One whose power over us  
is great and gentle, firm and forgiving, holy and healing ...

You who created us,  
who sustain us,  
who call us to live in peace,  
hear our prayer this day.

Hear our prayer for all who have died,  
whose hearts and hopes are known to you alone ...

Hear our prayer for those who put the welfare of others  
ahead of their own  
and give us hearts as generous as theirs ...

Hear our prayer for those who gave their lives  
in the service of others,  
and accept the gift of their sacrifice ...

Help us to shape and make a world  
where we will lay down the arms of war  
and turn our swords into ploughshares  
for a harvest of justice and peace ...

Comfort those who grieve the loss of their loved ones  
and let your healing be the hope in our hearts...

Hear our prayer this day  
and in your mercy answer us  
in the name of all that is holy.  
The peace of God be with you.



# C E M E T E R Y P R A Y E R S

## WITH GRATITUDE AND HONOR

BY J. VELTRI, S.J.

Gracious God, on this Memorial Day weekend,  
we remember and give thanks  
for those who have given their lives  
in the service of our country.

When the need was greatest,  
they stepped forward and did their duty  
to defend the freedoms that we enjoy,  
and to win the same for others.

O God, you yourself have taught us  
that no love is greater than that  
which gives itself for another.  
These honored dead gave the most precious gift they had,  
life itself,  
for loved ones and neighbors,  
for comrades and country – and for us.

Help us to honor their memory  
by caring for the family members  
they have left behind,  
by ensuring that their wounded comrades  
are properly cared for,  
by being watchful caretakers of the freedoms  
for which they gave their lives,  
and by demanding that no other young men and women  
follow them to a soldier's grave  
unless the reason is worthy and the cause is just.

Holy One, help us to remember that freedom is not free.  
There are times when its cost is, indeed, dear.  
Never let us forget those who paid so terrible a price  
to ensure that freedom would be our legacy.

Though their names may fade with the passing of generations,  
may we never forget what they have done.  
Help us to be worthy of their sacrifice,

O God, help us to be worthy.



# C E M E T E R Y P R A Y E R S

## PRAYER FOR THE FALLEN 1

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Gracious God,

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace.

In union with people of goodwill of every nation, embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice, and thus, seek an end to violence and conflict around the globe. We ask this through your name.

*Amen.*

## PRAYER FOR THE FALLEN 2

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

As our nation pauses today to remember those in the military who have given their lives for freedoms we enjoy, we pray you would have us all look to you for strength, comfort and guidance. Be with all who serve in our Armed Forces. Bless them and their families. Grant your loving protection. Let peace prevail among all the nations, O God. Especially let your mercy rest upon our land, even as we acknowledge with thanksgiving your past goodness on this country. If it is your will, preserve the lives of the men and women in uniform as they defend our citizenry. Most of all, we pray that you would turn the hearts of all – military and civilian – to your holy Word where we find the true peace for our sinful souls that surpasses all understanding. Keep us repentant of sin. Move us to know, take hold and treasure your saving grace. In this peace and hope for eternity, we pray.

*Amen.*

