

# Thank the Veteran

Do you attend the church of your faith, worshipping God according to the dictates of your own conscience? Thank the American veteran.

Do you choose to play golf or tennis or perhaps spend time reading newspapers and books? Thank the American veteran.

Did you participate in the 2008 presidential election, voting for the man you felt could best serve our nation in office? Thank the American veteran.

Do you express an opinion in a conversation about the performance – or lack thereof – of your government or some public official? Thank the American veteran.

As you read a newspaper, do you realize how fortunate you are to live in a country where the government is not allowed to tell the press what it can or cannot print? Thank the American veteran.

Do you cherish your right to own property and to be secure in your own house? Thank the American veteran.

We pause this time of year to do just that – to thank the American veteran, and particularly the service men and women who paid the supreme sacrifice for their country, purchasing our rights to make these choices. Monday is Memorial Day 2009.

We should be ever mindful – not on just one day a year – of the precious freedoms that have been secured by the American veteran. He (or she) earned the hero's badge, fighting valiantly on native soil in the Civil War, in hilltop charges of the Spanish-American War, in the trenches of World War I, in the tank tracks of World War II, in the rugged hills of the Korean War, in the steaming jungles of Vietnam, and in the heat and the sand of Afghanistan and Iraq.

America remains “the land of the free and the home of the brave” because, in large measure, of the American veteran. He or she has been equal to the challenge, no matter how large or awesome.

Thank the American veteran as we prepare for and celebrate Memorial Day 2009.

– Beecher Hunter