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Liberty's Defenders–A Memorial Day Observation

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My Memorial Day commentary for [Beyond the News](#):

“Cover them with beautiful flowers, deck them with garlands these brothers of ours, lying so silent by night and by day.” Those were the words of poet Will Carleton speaking of the Civil War dead. Memorial Day is more than a national holiday, it is a sacred observance. As a nation we must be reminded again and again that our freedom was bought with a price. Throughout the history of this republic, soldiers, sailors and airmen have given their lives for the sacred cause of liberty. The honored dead lay in cemeteries all over the nation and scattered around the world. Even now freedom is defended at great cost. The story of American freedom is the story of noble and sacrificial service. On Memorial Day we honor all those who have given their lives for this nation and its ideals—and we pray for those who serve even now.” See Memorial Day coverage from [USA Today](#), [ABC News](#), [The Washington Post](#), [National Public Radio \[NPR\]](#). On [ABC News](#)’ “[Nightline](#)” program tonight, anchor Ted Koppel will read the names of more than 900 U.S. service members who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq over the last year. The program has provided a site with the [list](#) of names to be read.

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