

Notable Monuments to Veterans Across the United States

Veterans Day honors the millions of men and women who have sacrificed much to serve in the United States military. Veterans Day is commemorated each year on November 11 because it was that day in 1918 when an armistice was reached between combatants in World War I, which estimates suggest claimed the lives of as many as 22 million people.

There are many ways for Americans to celebrate veterans on Veterans Day. Visiting war memorials can instill a greater sense of appreciation for the men and women who have served in the United States military. The following are some notable war memorials honoring veterans across the United States.



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is an iconic memorial located in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Cemetery officials note New York Congressman and World War I veteran Hamilton Fish, Jr., played an integral role in establishing

the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by proposing legislation that provided for the internment of one unknown American soldier killed

during WWI. Guards are now present at the tomb 24/7, and visitors, including U.S. presidents and foreign dignitaries, typically lay a wreath at the

Memorial in Washington, D.C. honors the roughly 1.5 million American veterans who fought alongside forces from the United Nations in a conflict that lasted from 1950 to 1953. Nineteen sculptures depicting U.S. servicemen on patrol during the conflict are among the many notable components of this moving memorial, which also features a wall and pool of remembrance that display the names of the more than 36,000 Americans killed during the Korean War.

Liberty Memorial
The Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, was built in 1926 to honor the brave American service members who lost their lives in World War I. The Liberty Memorial, which is now known as the National World War I Museum and Memorial, is an iconic landmark in Kansas City that features the Liberty Memorial Tower, which rises 217 feet about Memorial Courtyard and 268 feet above the North Lawn. The top of the tower emits a flame at night to cre-

ate a stunning visual. Memory Hall on the east side of the Liberty Memorial Tower containing a portion of the Panthéon de la Guerre, an iconic French painting that depicts the Allied nations of World War I.

USS Arizona Memorial
The USS Arizona Memorial in Honolulu, Hawaii, is dedicated to preserving the memories of the sacrifices of servicemen who fought in the Pacific theater throughout World War II. The memorial marks the resting place of more than 1,100 sailors during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, an event that led to U.S. involvement in World War II. The memorial is accessible exclusively by boat and the sunken remains of the battleship USS Arizona straddle the site.

These are just four of the many notable landmarks that commemorate the sacrifice and service of U.S. military members over the course of the nation's history.

Throw a Memorial Day Party to Remember

Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial kickoff to summer. It's a time for cold beverages and poolside enjoyment, all the while reflecting on the meaning behind the holiday. People across the country will host Memorial Day gatherings over this long weekend. Throwing an event that hits all the right notes and is enjoyed by all comes down to proper planning.

looks. Opt for a navy or red tablecloth with white ceramic plates and then a red or blue napkin. Fill small silver buckets or mason jars with white hydrangeas and red carnations for a timeless feel. Patriotic aluminum stars and country classics can be purchased at nearby hardware centers.

Respect the flag
Any American flags used for decor at the party should be handled with respect. Flags should never touch the ground, be worn as clothing or used as tablecloths.

Elevate the menu
Give a classic grilling

menu an upgrade with a few touches that can make the experience more special. Consider a "build-your-own" bar with various gourmet toppings that can add extra flavor to burgers and hot dogs. Swap potato salad and cole slaw sides for lighter, gourmet options that won't spoil in the heat. Watermelon paired with feta or palm hearts paired with cherry tomatoes is light and refreshing. Create a signature drink that offers a nod to the red, white and blue. A batch of lemonade with blueberries and strawberries appeals to all ages. Adults can opt to

spike theirs with a favorite spirit.

Classic lawn games
Guests can be treated to some entertainment that goes beyond the pool or sitting barside. Popular lawn games, such as cornhole, Spikeball, bocce, and more encourage guests to get up, move and mingle. Think about having classic activities that can harken back to simpler times. Turn music on and off for a game of "freeze dance." Or let kids play a friendly game of dodgeball or Red Rover so they stay off of their devices.

Secure the soundtrack
It's important to keep a

steady playlist of songs going to maintain the vibe. Tailor the list to feature softer songs when guests are arriving or eating. More upbeat songs can be featured later in the day after people have become comfortable mingling. Use a combination of songs that blend classic summer pop and rock with some patriotic hits.

Write down your task list
Writing down tasks and when to do them can keep a party host on track. Invitations should be sent at least three weeks out. With such a popular entertaining day, sending the invitations earlier

might be smart. Shop for non-perishable items a week before. Save food shopping for two or three days before Memorial Day and prep make-ahead items the day before. The grill should be lit and preheated about 30 minutes before guests arrive if the plan is to cook immediately; otherwise, let guests stream in and enjoy chips and dips until the bulk of the cooking will begin.

Memorial Day festivities are nearly here, and preparing for this unofficial summer kickoff can lead to a more organized, fun and enjoyable party.

Saluting Our American Heroes.
FAYETTE COUNTY FARM BUREAU. FARM, FAMILY, FOOD.
618-283-3276
1125 Sunset Drive Vandalia, IL

REMEMBER Memorial Day
Member FDIC
The First National Bank of Brownstown
108 E. Main Street, Brownstown • 618-427-3363 www.fnbrownstown.com

THE CITY OF VANDALIA
"The Beautiful Old Capitol City"
431 W. Gallatin Street • Vandalia, Illinois 62471-2746
www.vandaliaillinois.com

We Salute Our Armed Forces
Burtschi Bros.
ABSTRACTS OF TITLE and TITLE INSURANCE
Since 1894
415 West Gallatin Vandalia • www.burtschibrothers.com • 618-283-2102
dswofford@burtschibrothers.com

Cripe GRAIN CO.
Since 1965
P.O. Box 96 - R.R. 1 • Vandalia, IL
Located at Bluff City 2 Miles on Alternate 40
618-283-1406

Mid-State Camper Sales
Parts • Sales • Service
U.S. 40 @ Bluff City
Vandalia, IL
618-283-4396
www.midstatecampersales.com

Miller Funeral Home LTD
Serving: Vandalia • Ramsey • Fillmore
The Miller Family
831 N. 5th • Vandalia, IL • 618-283-3176
millerfhs@sbcglobal.net
Serve. Honor. Respect.

Remembering Those Who Served.
STOMBAUGH'S Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
"SINCE 1911"
CUSTOM SHEET METAL
"Turn to the Experts"
Steve Stombaugh
Jean Stombaugh
Zachary Stombaugh
329 S. First St., Vandalia, IL 62471
618-283-0142
www.stombaugh.com

We remember and are thankful to those who've served for our country and our freedom.
We Thank You.
WILLMS & Associates
411 W. Gallatin, Vandalia, IL
618-283-0120

Thank You To Those Who Served.
Expert Service Auto Repair
Troy Poe
Military Discount Given
1710A Hillsboro, Road, Vandalia • Phone: 618-431-2236

Remembering Those Who Gave Their All
INTERSTATE MOTORS
MARTEN BUILDINGS
VANDALIA, IL
618-283-1932
WWW.INTERSTATEMOTORSVANDALIA.COM

EST. 1968
OKAW VALLEY KAMPGROUND
Okaw Valley Kampground Honors our Nation's Heroes
We give all military 10% discount all year and FREE camping on Veterans Day. (888) 470-3968
Please call ahead for availability
1341 East 1650 Avenue, Brownstown, IL 62418
Look us up on the web www.okawvalley.com

Times Right
Specialty Foods & Treasure Market
300 S. 6th St. • Vandalia • 618-699-4527
Facebook/Times Right • TimesRight.net
Visit our shop for specialty foods, including Behrmann Meats, gift ideas, seasonal & home decor, hand poured candles, collectibles, jewelry & more!
Memorial Day is a time to honor, reflect & remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.
Have a safe & happy Memorial Day Weekend!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
THANK YOU!
HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED
TIMMERMANN & CO., LTD.
"Serving the Vandalia Community for Over 46 Years"
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
105 S. 4th Street, Vandalia IL
618-283-2371

Susie Pontious
Advertising Manager
The Leader-Union
229 S 5th Street
Vandalia IL
618-283-3374