

An item from Military.com - forwarded by Larry Van Kuran

Veterans Day is in November. That is the day set aside to recognize those who have served or are serving in the military.

Memorial Day, however, is very different. Memorial Day is the day to remember and pay tribute to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice: their lives.

While you're rightfully proud of your service member for his or her service, remember that there are those who have buried a husband or wife.

There are children growing up without a father or mother.

There are heroes who won't get to see their baby take her first steps or their son walk across the stage at high school graduation.

They'll never experience growing old and they will never meet their grandchildren.

They will never get another breath of air or kiss their loved ones goodnight again.

They are dead.

They exist only in our fondest, most cherished memories.

Thus the name of the holiday (if you can call it a "holiday") Memorial Day.

Memorial Day is about them and their families. That's it.

Social media has become a platform for thoughtless ranting, mass celebration and the overall ability to broadcast information without a vetting process. It's easy to turn holidays into what they're not. While we may not agree about the significance of Christmas or the history of Hanukkah, it is essential that we pay our respects to the fallen by not losing focus on what Memorial Day is about.

I urge you to use this opportunity to memorialize the lives of those who took their last breaths in our defense.

All gave some. But on Memorial Day we recognize those who gave all.