

Special Memorial Day Teaching

May 28, 2018

We live in an amazing country; a free democratic society that has been the paradise that our immigrant forebears imagined when they came to the shores of America.

Today, our nation observes Memorial Day, and it's a sacred opportunity by which we can prompt our memory and gratitude for those "defenders of liberty" who have died fighting our country's wars.

Take the time today and observe this mitzvah of *Yizkor*.

Share a story of just one of our heroes with your family and friends; consciously speak about your appreciation for their courage and sacrifice.

Physically, or at least spiritually, choose to stand by the graves of our heroes and remember.

Choose the moment by which you can stand still in sorrow and in silence, in grief and in gratitude, in reverence and reflection, and appreciate fully the legacy left to us.

Abraham Lincoln prayerfully declared: "With malice towards none, with charity towards all, let us go forward to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have born the battle and for his widow and for his orphan, to do all that we can to achieve a just and lasting peace amongst ourselves."

This posture of holiness isn't procured accidentally. We all need to choose its pursuit.

May the memories of our soldiers, our defenders of liberty, eternally be for a blessing.

And may those men and women who are presently in harm's way be safely returned to their families, and their nation.

Amen.

Rabbi Mitch

rabbimitch@templesholom.com