

Monday's U.S. holiday is Memorial Day — a day set aside to honor the nation's war dead. It has become a tradition here at The Daily Livestock Report to include **General Orders No. 11 of the Grand Army of the Republic in our final pre-Memorial Day edition.** It's a message we are proud to feature and that, judging from the e-mails we usually receive, our readers appreciate. The Orders were issued on May 5, 1868 by GAR Commander in Chief John A. Logan and established the first traditions of what is now Memorial Day.

"The 30th day of May, 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.

If other eyes grow dull, other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us, then at the time appointed gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan."



Memorial Day

To those who
courageously gave their lives

and those who
bravely fight today

THANK YOU

We all too often forget the precious price that has been paid for our freedom and the freedom of millions of others worldwide. We once again ask you make time Monday to attend a Memorial Day observance in your community. Most will include a reading of General Orders No. 11, a 21-gun salute, perhaps a speech and, most certainly, the haunting strains of Taps. We guarantee you will be moved and grateful – as all of us should be on this most solemn of national holidays. **Have a safe, happy and meaningful Memorial Day. And say a prayer of thanks for the sacrifices of so many. How blessed we are because of them.**



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