

Remember the Dead and the Living



Memorial Day is a day to **remember**, not just the dead, but also the living.

Wars claim their own victims, whom we honor once a year.

But then we forget, every year, leaving the bereaved alone to grieve, sending the broken to hospitals, relegating the devastated to the streets.

War kills people, and modern warfare continues to kill long afterwards: death, amputation, hatred, fear, suicide, disease, and terror. War threatens our humanity.

But in time we forget. War becomes normalized, its horror sanitized, its victims invisible.

How easy it is to forget that **almost 6,000 American troops and over a million Iraqi and Afghan civilians are dead.** But, they are not numbers. **Each one is someone's son or daughter!**

Memorial Day should be a day for putting flowers on graves and planting trees. It is also **a day to remind us as human beings to destroy the weapons of death** that endanger us more than they protect us, which waste our resources, impoverish us, and threaten our children and grandchildren.

As long as we accept war as means for achieving political goals, as long as we try to discipline other nations with force and fail to discipline ourselves by demanding accountability of our President and Congress, as long as we believe that our military and economic power makes us superior to other nations, **we will be decorating graves on Memorial Days forever...**

But, we don't want to see more graves to receive more flowers on future Memorial Days. **The memory of the dead deserves a different dedication. To peace and to defiance of our government's war policy.**



Rockland Coalition
for Peace & Justice

Join our 445th Peace Vigil to help end the wars!
Every Saturday, 1-3 pm, at Rte. 59 & Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY
For info: www.rocklandaction.org 5/28/11

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