

WITH GRATITUDE AND HONOR

Gracious God, on this Memorial Day weekend,
We remember and give thanks for those men who have given their lives in the service of our country. The need was great to us; they stepped forward and did their duty to defend the freedoms that we enjoy,
And to win the same for others.

Oh god, you yourself have taught us that no love is greater than that which gives itself for another. These honored dead gave the most precious gift they had, life itself, for loved ones and neighbors, for comrades and country – and for us.

Help us to honor their memory by caring for the family members they left behind, ensuring that their wounded comrades are properly cared for,
By being watchful caretakers of the freedoms for which they gave their lives and by demanding that no other young men and women follow them to a soldier's grave unless the reason is worthy, and the cause is just.

Dear Lord, help us to remember that freedom is not free.
There are times when its cost is, indeed, dear.
Never let us forget those who paid so terrible a price to ensure that freedom would be our legacy.

Though their names may fade with the passing of generations, may we never forget what they have done.
Help us to be worthy of their sacrifice,

Oh god, help us to be worthy. Amen.