



A History of Memorial Day in the United States

Memorial Day was originally known as **Decoration Day**, a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868. During the first celebration

of Decoration Day, General James Garfield (later, President Garfield) made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery; after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate **Memorial Day**; and after World War I, observances also began **to honor those who had died** in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared **Memorial Day** a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May.

Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, **living and dead**, is celebrated each year on November 11. A kind donor provides booklets of APC veterans each November. That document includes those who are honored at Memorial Day, so no separate booklet is printed in May.

Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery with a ceremony in which a small U.S. flag is placed on each grave.

In keeping with that commemoration, U.S. flags are placed on veterans' graves in the cemetery here at Alamance. The United States flag is raised on the cemetery flagpole (located near the monument on the north side of the cemetery) in their memory.

This year, on Memorial Day, APC trumpeters will join *Taps across America* at **10 a.m., Monday, May 25**. You may care to join them at the flagpole, at that time.

Take time during this holiday weekend to walk through our cemetery and visit the final resting places of the many men and women who served God and our country. Veterans from wars dating back to the American Revolution are buried here. It is a history lesson for all of us about our church, our community, and the dedication of its people.



Grieve. Heal. Grow.

Comfort Zone Camp is a nonprofit 501(c)3 bereavement organization that transforms the lives of children who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, primary caregiver, or significant person.

Comfort Zone's programs are offered to children ages 7-17; and their families, for the family programs — plus we offer young adult programs for 18-25-year-olds

Programs are free of charge. They include trust-building activities, and age-based support groups that help to break the emotional isolation that grief often brings.

Held year-round across the country, primary locations are: California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Virginia (HQ). CZC also partners with organizations to serve their local or specific communities through our Partnership and Community by Design Programs.

OUR MISSION:

Comfort Zone empowers grieving children to fully realize their capacity to heal, grow, and lead more fulfilling lives.

OUR VISION

A society that is actively engaged in meeting the ongoing and complex needs of grieving children.

PARTNERSHIP & COMMUNITY BY DESIGN PROGRAMS

Comfort Zone offers opportunities to partner with organizations that are interested in bringing our camps/programs and services to their local area.

OUR REACH

Comfort Zone Camp has hosted campers from nearly all 50 United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.