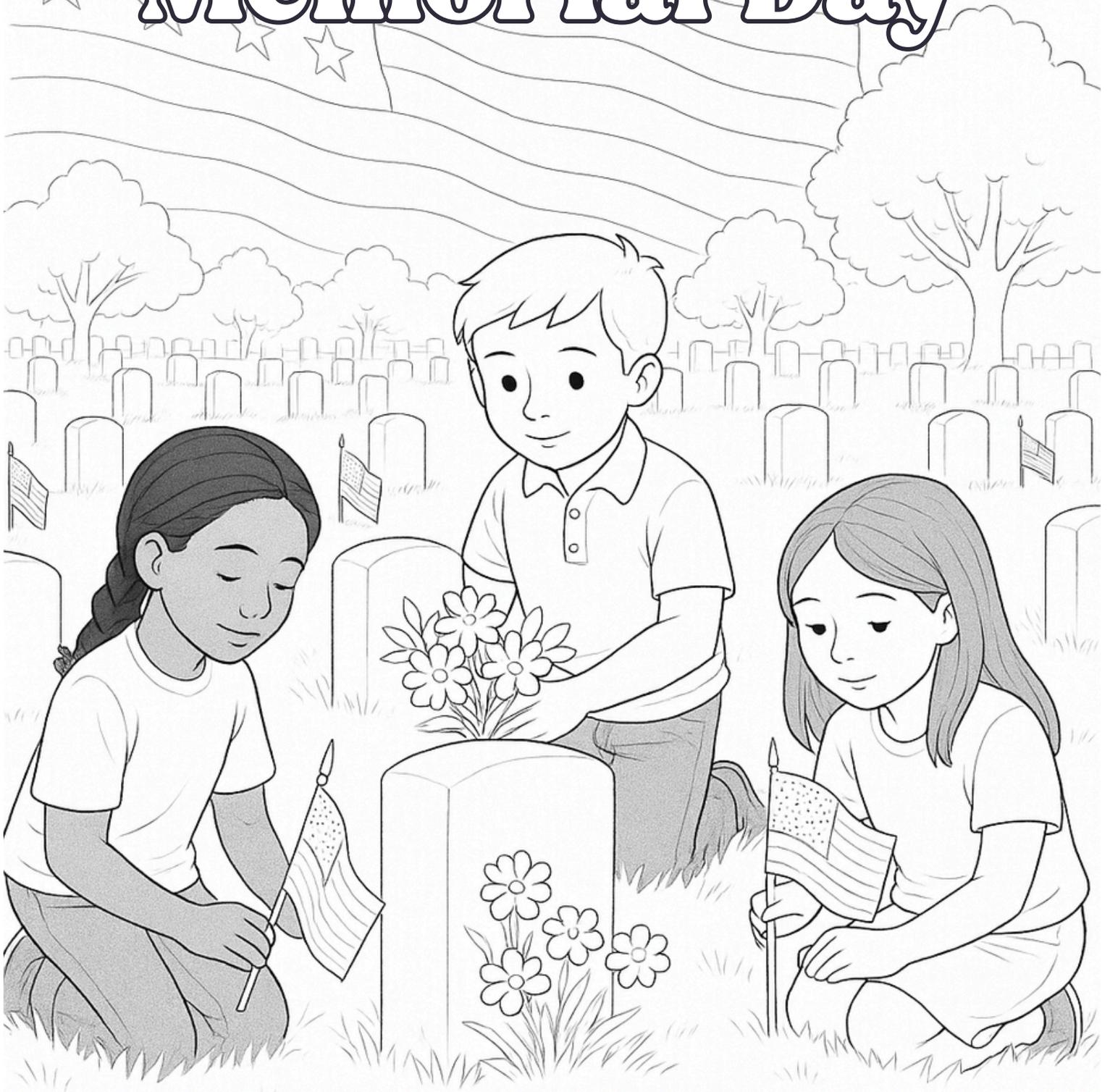


# REMEMBERING THE BRAVE

on

# Memorial Day



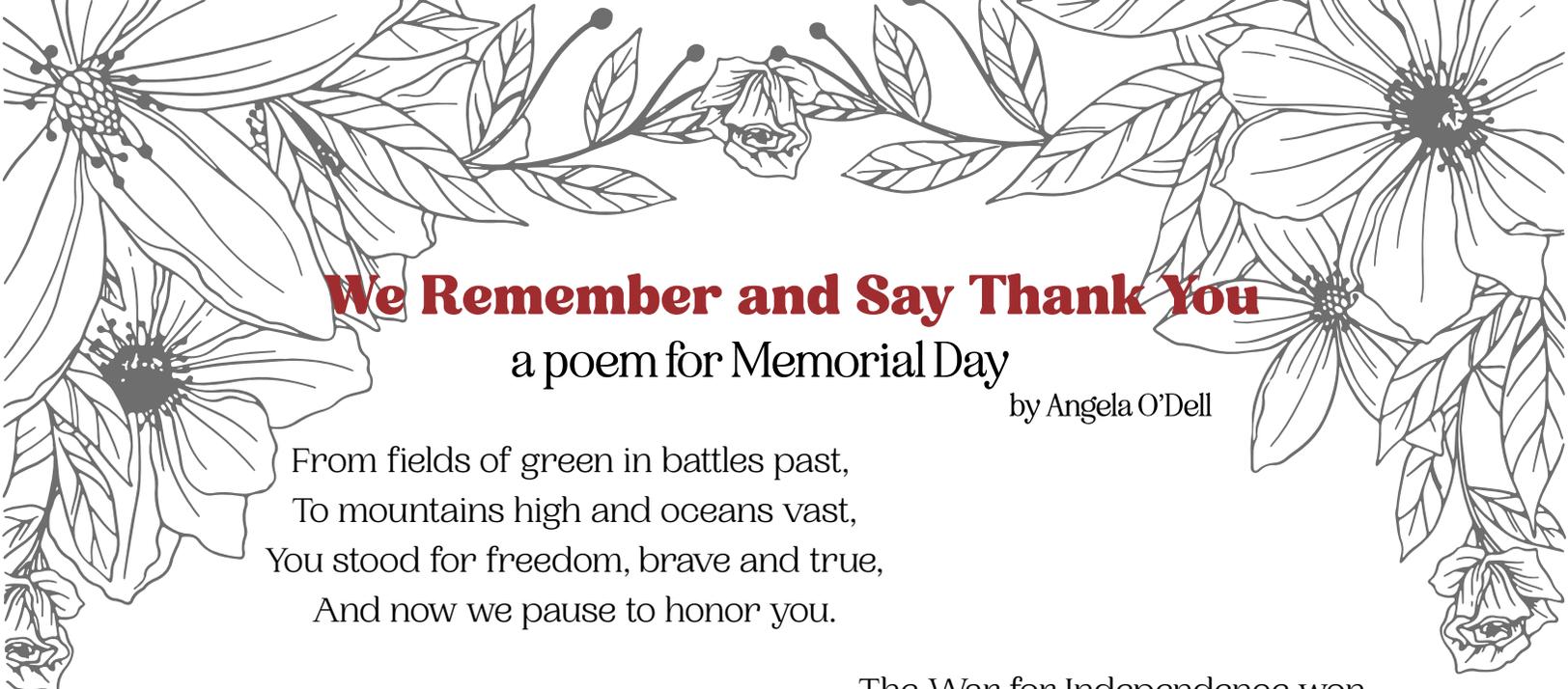
# What is Memorial Day?

Memorial Day is a special holiday in the United States when we honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. It is observed each year on the last Monday of May. Many people spend the day visiting cemeteries, attending parades, or simply taking a moment to remember those who gave their lives for their country.

The tradition began after the Civil War, which ended in 1865. More American soldiers died in that war than in any other, and families across the nation were grieving their losses. In 1868, a group of Union veterans called for a nationwide day of remembrance. They named it Decoration Day because people would visit the graves of fallen soldiers to decorate them with flowers and flags.

At first, Decoration Day honored only those who had died in the Civil War. But after World War I, the holiday began to include fallen soldiers from all U.S. wars. Over time, the name changed to Memorial Day, and in 1971, Congress made it a national holiday, choosing the last Monday in May so families could gather and reflect over a long weekend. One important tradition that continues today is the National Moment of Remembrance. At 3:00 PM local time, Americans are asked to pause for a moment of silence to reflect on the sacrifice made by the brave men and women who died in service to our country. This simple act helps remind us that Memorial Day is not just about barbecues or summer fun—it's a day to honor true heroes.

Children and adults can also take time to learn about real soldiers from the past. Whether it's researching a relative who served or reading the story of a Medal of Honor recipient, remembering individuals helps us connect personally to the meaning of the day. When we understand the cost of freedom, we can be more grateful for the peace we enjoy today. Memorial Day is not the same as Veterans Day. Veterans Day, observed in November, honors all who have served in the military—both living and deceased. Memorial Day is especially set aside to remember those who died in battle or as a result of wounds received in combat. It is a solemn, respectful day, full of gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice made by others on behalf of our nation.



# **We Remember and Say Thank You**

a poem for Memorial Day

by Angela O'Dell

From fields of green in battles past,  
To mountains high and oceans vast,  
You stood for freedom, brave and true,  
And now we pause to honor you.

The War for Independence won,  
You fought until the fight was done.  
In Brother's War, with heart and pain,  
You gave your lives through loss and gain.

From trench and tank and stormy skies,  
Through two World Wars with sacrifice.  
In Korea's cold and Vietnam's rain,  
You faced the fight, endured the strain.

The Desert Storm, in foreign land,  
You answered duty's brave command.  
And though we may not know your name,  
We thank you deeply just the same.

With every flag and flower we place,  
We honor you with love and grace.  
We live in freedom every day—  
Because of you... we kneel and pray.

So on this day, with grateful hearts,  
We pause before our fun day starts.  
To every soldier—young or gray—  
**We remember, and we thank you today.**







# Memorial Day Word Search Puzzle

D R J S I S G P S O  
T E O O F T R A E A  
V M C L L F A R R A  
H E O D A A V A V M  
E M U I G L E D I E  
R B R E O L I E C R  
O E A R U E I Q E I  
X R G A X N C X G C  
F R E E D O M C J A  
A D H O N O R B V J

Remember

Parade

America

Grave

Soldier

Freedom

Honor

Courage

Service

Fallen

Flag

Hero

D R J S I S G P S O  
T E O O F T R A E A  
V M C L L F A R R A  
H E O D A A V A V M  
E M U I G L E D I E  
R B R E O L I E C R  
O E A R U E I Q E I  
X R G A X N C X G C  
F R E E D O M C J A  
A D H O N O R B V J

# **Where Heroes Rest: A Story of Military Cemeteries**



Across the United States, quiet fields of white gravestones mark the resting places of American military heroes. These are military cemeteries—peaceful, sacred places where men and women who served in the Armed Forces are buried with honor. Each stone represents a life lived in service, and each row reminds us of the courage and sacrifice of those who protected our country.

One of these special places is Fort Snelling National Cemetery, located in Minnesota. This cemetery is named after a historic military fort and is a resting place for thousands of veterans, including those who served in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, and more recent conflicts. Among them is my dad, a proud Korean War veteran, whose service and legacy live on through the honor of being buried at Fort Snelling.

Military cemeteries are carefully maintained by the government so families and citizens can visit, reflect, and give thanks. Flags are placed on the graves during Memorial Day, and flowers are often left by loved ones. The design of these cemeteries—with rows of headstones standing tall in straight lines—is meant to show respect and equality for all who served, no matter their rank.

Visiting a military cemetery can be a powerful experience. It helps us understand that freedom comes at a cost and that remembering those who gave their lives is one way we can show gratitude. Whether it's at Fort Snelling or another national cemetery, these places invite us to pause, honor, and never forget.