



## MAY IS NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH



Also known as Military Appreciation Month, the entire month of May is a special time for active duty and retired military. It is a time designated to honor and recognize the contributions, sacrifices, and service of the members of the armed forces, past and present. Military Appreciation Month plays a crucial role in fostering awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by the military community. It provides a platform for education and dialogue about the experiences of service members, veterans, and their families.

Congress designated May as National Military Appreciation Month in 1999 to ensure the nation was given the chance to publicly show their appreciation for troops past and present. It serves as a reminder of the profound contributions made by service members. May was chosen because it has many individual days marked to note our military's achievements, including Loyalty Day, established in 1921, Victory in Europe (VE) Day commemorating the end of WWII in Europe in 1945, Children of Fallen Patriots Day, and the anniversary of the death of Osama bin Laden.

We pause on Memorial Day to remember the sacrifice and service of those who gave all. May also marks several other military anniversaries and events, including Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and Armed Forces Day on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

You are encouraged to plan and participate in an activity at your Post or in your community sometime in May to honor our heroes – our veterans and active duty military. And don't forget to offer Poppies every day in memory of all those veterans who gave their lives in service to our country.