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Remember and Honoring Veterans Every Day

“Memorial Day is the official beginning of Summer, but for those familiar with history, it has a much deeper meaning because it is a day to remember those who gave their lives in military conflicts,” said Oklahoma County Assessor Larry Stein.

“I attended church services where the minister offered everyone a toy soldier. He urged us to place the soldier near the front door of our homes and before we left he urged us to say a prayer for all those who protect us every day,” Stein said.

“Memorial Day should be every day. This simple reminder of a soldier may help us remember to say a prayer of thanks for our troops and all those who serve every day,” Stein said.

“To honor our veterans and help us remember those who have served and are serving we will have toy soldiers at our reception desk on the third floor of the Court House, room 313. Everyone is encouraged to take a soldier home and place it in a location to help them remember to pray for our troops,” Stein said.

“As a member of an Air Force Family with more than 100 years of allied military service Oklahomans know our state has a rich military history. So many families, like mine, have a relationship with our military, either through relatives or friends who have served or been stationed at Oklahoma’s largest employer, Tinker Air Force Base,” Stein said.

Every Memorial Day is a sacred commemoration of those who sacrificed for our freedoms. Sometimes it may seem this day has turned into a way to sell things. Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Reports indicate more than two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. While Waterloo, N.Y., was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it’s difficult to prove where it all started, Stein explained.

We know Memorial Day was born out of the Civil War and a desire to honor the war dead.

The official proclamation on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his [General Order No. 11](#) reads; ‘The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,’ The date of Decoration Day was chosen because it wasn’t the anniversary of any particular battle.’

The anniversary is now an official holiday at all levels of government, Stein said.

The Assessor’s Office provides a total exemption from all property taxes for qualified 100% military disabled veterans and currently approximately 3,402 veterans are qualified for this exemption with a market value of their homes of more than \$541 Million. The surviving spouse of the veteran continues to enjoy this exemption as long as they own the house.