Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who died in service to their country. The holiday was officially proclaimed in 1868 to honor Union and Confederate soldiers and was expanded after World War I to honor those who died in all wars. Today, Memorial Day honors over one million men and women who have died in military service since the Civil War.

This infographic compiles statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau and Department of Defense to honor our men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The U.S. Census Bureau gathers detailed information on living veterans from the American Community Survey (ACS). Federal, state, and community leaders, private businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations use ACS statistics to determine the programs, services, and infrastructure that serve the needs of our veterans. The Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center provides statistics on the number of people who served and died in each of our nation’s wars.

Memorial Day Observance: 2011 American Community Survey

- **Daily Death Totals:** Daily death totals include only active duty between 1990 and 2010. Total in-theater deaths as of April 25, 2013.

- **Data from the ACS include the veteran population 18 years and older who live in the United States and Puerto Rico.**

- **Service-connected disability are not statistically different.**

**Women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces:**

- **Female Veterans:** 72%
- **Female Non-veterans:** 28%

**Wartime Periods Notes:**

- **Periods of military service are not mutually exclusive. Veterans could have served in multiple periods.**

- **Service totals for Gulf War Era and later include active duty, Guard, and Reserves.**

- **PoW/Unlisted:** For the Civil War, exact totals are not known. For the Post-9/11 Era, only 21,650 are non-theater, non-service-connected mortality data are not available. Service totals for Gulf War Era and later include active duty, Guard, and Reserves.

- **“In-theater” refers to the geographic area in which wartime operations occurred. “Non-theater” refers to all other areas worldwide.”

- **Medal of Honor:** 5454 men and 1 woman have received the Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force.