

I'M DENNIS ULMER I ASKED TO SPEAK
TONIGHT ON REMEMBERING WHAT MEMORIAL DAY
MEANS - MAY 7, 2013 CIT-1

Memorial Day was created shortly after the Civil War as Decoration Day
a day to mark and honor the graves of Union Soldiers, celebrated in the
states that were part of the Union it then became a custom nationwide
and was celebrated on May 30th It is now one of the "Monday Holidays"
celebrated each year on the last Monday in May. Memorial Day is also
used to mark the beginning of summer activities in northern cities.

BUT LET'S NOT FORGET WHAT IT STANDS FOR,

To honor our heroes who died fighting for our country's freedoms is the
least that we can do. A Gold Star family is ^{A FAMILY} ~~one~~ who has lost ^{A FAMILY MEMBER IN} ~~someone~~ ^{THE} ~~in~~ ^{MILITARY}

^{IN} the service to our country. I have had the honor and privilege to visit
Arlington National Cemetery with Gold Star families whose loved ones
who were killed in action in Iraq ^{OR} ~~and~~ Afghanistan ~~and~~ ^{THEY} ~~have been~~ ^{WERE} laid to
rest there in Section 60. ~~On~~ ^{At} my first visit to Arlington we were taken
~~there~~ ^{to} by bus, each of us was given a bottle of water to drink because it
was a warm day. As I walked in the cemetery I came across a mother
who was putting water on some flowers that it turned out she had left
there on a visit the day before. She was saying to her husband that she
didn't think the water she had was enough, so I handed her my bottle
of drinking water. She said I can't take your water and I asked if this
was her son and I said let me honor both of you by giving you this
water. She accepted and we ~~our friends now~~ ^{ARE NOW FRIENDS,}

Gold Star families are amazing. If you do a kindness for them, they think
that you are a hero.

So many men and women have died for our freedom. ^{LIKE} The freedom for me to have free speech and speak here tonight. We too often take our many freedoms for granted. *FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.*

Arlington National Cemetery is a special majestic place. I have also been there by myself and saw only a horse drawn caisson in the distance and heard the sound of the gun fire of a salute to another hero. It doesn't matter where our heroes are buried. Some never make it back home.

~~Freedom isn't free.~~ *our bodies in FOREIGN LANDS BUT THEY ARE AMERICA'S HEROES TOO.*

I want to mention that our Mayor, Mayor Seiler, always mentions and thanks the men and women who serve in our military in all the speeches that he makes. I'm glad to live in a city that remembers, that always remembers those that serve and sacrifice so much to keep our nation safe and secure. The Gold Star families have given us their personal heroes, and our American heroes. ~~May their sacrifice never be forgotten.~~

Every year there are public ceremonies to remember and honor our heroes on Memorial Day. There is one each year in Fort Lauderdale at the Lauderdale Memorial Park Cemetery. Please plan to attend an event on Memorial Day to show that you remember.

May god bless America and especially today our Gold Star Families and all of those brave men and women who gave that last full measure of devotion. They deserve nothing less

Memorial Day deserves to be the holiday that it was designated for. An American Holiday, A day to remember those who died to keep us ~~free~~, *SAFE* the home of the brave (like they were) and forever the land of the free.

May our heroes forever be remembered and rest in eternal peace.

Thank you.