



## From the Desk of the MOPHA National Chaplain

### MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE 2023

As we know, Memorial Day Holiday has been designated as an annual holiday that takes place on the third Monday in May. Briefly, it is dedicated to honoring our American heroes of the armed forces of all branches of service of military personnel of all American wars who made the ultimate sacrifice and died while serving their (our) country-the United States of America. In my research, I found that it was previously known as "Decoration Day with the first high-profile memorial event held at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C." It is certainly more than just a 3-day holiday weekend. "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them." **John F. Kennedy**

As we, the nation, **unite** to pay tribute to all and some of our unsung heroes, let us as the MOPHA also join in to do the same.

Let us pray:

***"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." Psalm 19:14 (NKJV)***

God, our Father in Heaven,

We come humbly before Your Throne of Grace with bowed heads and hearts great gratefulness for this day You have brought us to and to be able to observe in remembrance. Giving You all of the honor, glory and praise, we thank you for the men and women of our United States of America armed services who on this Memorial Day we pay tribute to for their selfless and courageous acts on behalf of this nation for our freedom. It has been written that "all gave some... some gave all." May we not ever take this freedom for granted nor You Father for we are aware of the sacrifice made, just for us. We ask that You will continue to provide comfort and peace to those of us that are left behind through memories and occasions such as this, especially their Gold Star families and loved ones, comrades, and other friends, and the citizens of this great country-oh Lord, thank You! Father, so, as grave sites are decorated with the American flags or flowers placed at their headstone, tears shed, memories recalled of those who at eternal rest, parades conducted/attended in commemoration, we ask that each person path crossed realizes that those sacrifices were not in vain being that it's a matter of the **heart** and You are open to their hearts-You are here/there with them (us) and that they can receive with assurance that You will never leave or forsake them (us), thank You Father. Father, we realize the meaning of this special day and we continue to be thankful for those who are still serving. We are thankful that at this time we are given the opportunity to open our hearts to embrace and include in this prayer the victims of those who were so brutally harmed and their families, friends and communities. As they too recall their precious endearing memories of loved ones as they mourn their loss of their loved ones in their unprecedented demise, our hearts grieves with all of those families and we ask that somehow-someway by someone they will realize that they are not alone, for You are present with them/us as well; You are good and Your mercies endures forever. We continue to seek Your Amazing Mercy with hearts of eternal gratitude as we have been taken off guard and speechless once again of the devastating events of what we see as the needless atrocity of innocent children and adults amongst other recent inhuman events including the recent murders throughout our United States and throughout the world. We bind on Earth and in Heaven the evil that seems to be trying to tear down, confuse and destroy God's people. It doesn't seem to be enough that people are suffering due to the long-term effects of the pandemic, natural causes/illnesses, suicide, accidents and other eans. But to think that someone else other than You, God, determines whether you live or die today or tomorrow. God, we are aware that there is a spiritual warfare going on and our flesh-man in its weakness asks the "whys". Forgive us Lord and we ask You for an extra measure of Your mercy and grace and for Your intercession. We know and claim that You are Greater than any tragedy, loss, disaster, or evil force and ask that Your love and peace is loosed on Earth/in Heaven and abound! As we continue to seek You in meditation and prayer for families, communities-this nation-this world, Lord, please have mercy upon us. Please may our children not live in a state of fear and anxiety, may we not live in a state of unforgiveness, anger, guilt or despair but to be of good courage and strength and purge us of all unrighteousness as You help us to move forward spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, holistically and unified as the citizens of United States because of WHO YOU are-we thank You, we are grateful. Lord, please, may Your people know that You are a just, compassionate and loving God, unwavering, reliable, trustworthy, sufficient, faithful every morning through some means-somewhat-someway through Your Spirit and that they receive it to a strong and unshakeable faith in You, the Maker of Heaven and Earth, our Refuge and walk in YOUR will and love You more.

Thank You Father, for being **I AM-not** the I WAS, **not** the I WILL Be. In YOUR HOLY NAME. AMEN.

***"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18(NIV)***

**And for:**

***"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4 (NIV)***

We ask, dear God that You will continue to bless America meeting her at needs and concerns according to Your will and purpose. And, that America will bless You, God. Eternally grateful, declaring and claiming victory in the Your Holy Name. AMEN