

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Hello from Albuquerque. I hope this find you in good health and you are not going insane by being shut in. Our family has been taking walks and having fun in the back yard. We bought a small pool for the grandkids and they are enjoying it almost daily.

This upcoming weekend will be Memorial Day. While we enjoy ourselves with grilling, and what family we can have with us, let us not forget our sisters and brother who need prayers. Let us also not forget why we have this day off. Several years ago, I wrote item for, I believe Lodge, on why we celebrate Memorial Day. It's called Freedom is not Free.

### FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

We, the people of the United States, enjoy a freedom not experienced in any other country. We have the rights to assemble, to free speech, and to worship however we chose, to name a few that will never be enjoyed elsewhere. But freedom is not free.

During the wars that the United States have been involved in there have been 41,892,128 people who have served during time of war. There were 651,031 Battle Deaths, and about 308,800 deaths in the theater of operation, and 230,254 deaths in the service non-theater. There were also 1,430,290 non-mortal wounded during service in war time. No Freedom is Not Free.

Every one of these service members that have served, both during peacetime and wartime have earned the respect of this nation. Those that have been wounded and those that have given their all have paid the price for the freedoms we enjoy. While most of the population will never have to endure the horrors of war, those who do will do it again if asked. When they signed up for the service, they wrote a check payable to the United States for everything up to and including their life.

Others have also paid the price of freedom. The wives, sons, daughters, mothers and fathers have also paid the price of freedom. They have cried over the graves of the fallen, they have fought to give their wounded the help they need to return to normal life with both the mental and physical wounds sustained during service.

The sacrifices made by these patriots provide the freedom the people of the United States enjoy. No freedom is not free, but the price is paid with pride and honor, and the veterans and their families deserve our thanks and respect.

I hope you enjoyed this item, although I copied the numbers from several sources, they were accurate as of when I wrote this. So, as we enjoy our weekend, and we think about our sisters and brothers let us also think about our fallen and say a prayer for all of us in this troubling time.

Stay safe and may God Bless you.

In Star Love,  
Jeff Satterfield  
Associate Grand Patron

