



JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

MEMORIAL DAY - 5/28/2007

HOW DID "MEMORIAL DAY" ORIGINATE?

***Memorial Day* was originally called "Decoration Day," which was set aside as a day of remembrance for the more than 620,000 soldiers (970,000 total casualties) who died during the Civil War.**

On April 25, 1866 a women's memorial association in Columbus, MS, decorated the graves of both Confederate and Union soldiers. In a nation trying to find a way to move on after a horrendous war, this gesture of reconciliation was heavily publicized and was seen as a way to lay the past to rest while honoring those who had fought on either side. The practice of strewing flowers on soldiers' graves soon became popular throughout the reunited nation.

"Decoration Day" was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by General John A. Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11. It was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states, but not in the South, where they continued to honor their dead on separate days. After World War I, the holiday was changed to "*Memorial Day*" to honor all Americans who died fighting in any war.

Conventional Wisdom: Memorial Day = A Day of Honor & Recognition