Prayer for Memorial Day

Memorial Day reminds us of the sacrifice that many of our fellow citizens made for us and our nation. It is also a time to rededicate ourselves to working for a world where such sacrifices will no longer be needed. This goal cannot come from the efforts of individuals or governments alone. It can only come through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, ever present, but not always recognized. Let us pray with faith and hope as Jesus's followers in the Upper Room did so long ago. *Fr. Jim*

Father, on this Memorial Day, grant peace to the souls of all those who died in war,
particularly those who gave their lives in service to our nation.
We remember with appreciation and humility the sacrifices they endured and the price they paid.
We remember the tears and grief of their families,
the pain of mothers, fathers, wives, husbands and children who lost precious loved ones.

Father, we pray also for our military personnel who struggle each day with the deep-seated pain of PTSD.
We ask that you, the Good Shepherd, walk with them through their personal dark valleys.
Give them hope and guide them to the support that they need and deserve.

To build a meaningful memorial to them, we ask God to give us all the will to work for peace everywhere so no more sons, daughters, husbands, wives, fathers, nor mothers are killed by the guns and bombs of war, whether in military service or as civilians.
We ask Mary, our Blessed Lady, who held the lifeless body of her son and was pierced by the sorrow of his suffering and death, to grant us the compassion and wisdom to affirm life and honor the dead through forgiveness and peace making.
May God have mercy on the souls of the departed. Grant them peace, O Lord.
May we have mercy on the living. Grant us your wisdom, O Lord. In Your name we pray. Amen.