

## GRAND COMMANDERY OF HAWAII

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Aloha Sir Knights:

A breezy and warm Aloha to all with high hopes that everyone is safe and in the best of health.

The past Easter celebration with our families and the sight of young grandkids bursting with laughter and eagerly “hunting” (artificial) eggs are all behind us. We are almost at the start of summer with the Memorial Day holiday/weekend occurring on the last Monday of May, the 31<sup>st</sup> of this year.

On Memorial Day we commemorate and honor the men and women who died while in the military service, particularly those who perished in battle or as result of wounds sustained in battle. These veterans made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedoms while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day is a federal holiday and its history dates back to the American Civil War. It started as an event to honor soldiers who had died during the war. It is said to be inspired by the way people in the Southern states honored the dead. The original national celebration of Decoration Day took place on 30 May 1868. There were over twenty-four cities and towns across the United States that claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo (New York) was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966.

On December 15, 2000, the U.S Congress passed the **National Moment of Remembrance Act (S.3181)**, which officially designated “the minute beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day each year as the National Moment of Remembrance and established the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance to encourage and coordinate the commemorations and observances of Memorial Day.” This solemn hour remind Americans of the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces as well as others who have died as a result of service to this nation. Americans around the world should pause and remember these heroes in a symbolic act of unity.

### Note:

- **Grand Encampment’s Triennial will be held from August 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, in Minneapolis. More information may be found here: <https://www.knightstemplar.org/ge682021.html>

In Unity,

*Alexander A. Escasa*

Alexander A. Escasa  
Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Hawaii



*Brethren and the families of Hawaiian Lodge F&AM posed for a photo after the observance of Memorial Day 2019.*