

Dear Friends,

As I sit to pen these words, we have just finished our Memorial Day Celebrations. In the week ahead we will be celebrating Scandinavian Days. Both are great occasions of remembering and celebrating.

Remembering is important and it is a vital thing. A certain Persian king was elevated from a poverty-stricken home to the glory of a royal throne. After he became king he sent his servants to the old shack where he was reared, with order to gather every relic of those days. They brought fragments of his home which included broken toys, his patched shirt, a crude wooden bowl from which he ate and numerous other worthless mementos of his childhood. All the items were arranged in a special room in his palace and each day he would spend one hour sitting among the memories of his past. On the wall hung a prayer, "Lest I forget."

We are quick to forget the blessings that have been ours; the gifts that we know because of someone else's generosity. The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings. When we do count our blessings we find that our cups are overflowing and we have much for which we can be grateful.

As we have celebrated Memorial Day we are grateful for the thousands of men and women who have served and given their lives for our freedom.

As we celebrate Scandinavian Days we can be grateful for our heritage and for the people who have played an important part in our lives.

Remember and you will discover that you have been blessed to be a blessing!!

In His goodness,  
**Chaplain Sandy**