

# The Thanks Of A Grateful Nation



The first question someone asks when they see *The Armed Forces Memorial Tribute Flag* is “Why hasn’t something like this ever been done before?”

Since the birth of our nation, Americans from all walks of life have given what Abraham Lincoln called “their last full

measure of devotion.” They have gone into battle throughout the world and have died to ensure that citizens of the United States - as well as other citizens of the world - enjoy the sacred privilege of freedom.

There will always be monuments to honor generals, battles and wars. But what speaks for the memory of those ‘everyday soldiers’, the countless unsung heroes in our armed forces who die in service to our nation and slip silently into history, their sacrifice remembered only by their families?

*The Armed Forces Memorial Tribute Flag* will. Whether a member of our military falls during a fierce battle on land, sea or in the air, or alone at a distant outpost, we must never forget any of them or their sacrifice. All of our children, all of our children’s children, and all who will come after them need to know of and be reminded of the fact that the freedom we cherish does not come without cost, and that the purchase of that freedom comes at a very high price.



*The Armed Forces Memorial Tribute Flag* hangs proudly throughout the United States over homes of active and retired military families, several American Legion and VFW Posts, a NYS Veteran’s hospital, the Pawling War Memorial and Veteran’s Cemetery, several firehouses, and several municipal buildings. The flag also flies at American military bases in Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq and Kuwait.

## We Can Never Repay Them . . . We Must Never Forget Them

*The Armed Forces Memorial Tribute Flag* should also remind us that the very act of service is, in itself, a sacrifice. Men and women leave their homes, their families, and everything they hold dear and go off into the unknown for several years to serve our country, never knowing what may lie ahead for them, risking terrible injury or death every day.

They go because they have a desire to serve the greater good and have committed their lives in service to protecting America, and ultimately, each of us. We can never repay that kind of dedication and selflessness, but we can - we must - honor and remember it. The Editor of The Pawling News Chronicle captured the essence of this sentiment when he poignantly wrote this about *The Armed Forces Memorial Tribute Flag*: “We endorse this contemporary gesture, not just because our neighbors' ideas launched it and added to it, but because remembering those who don't return is as important as cherishing those who do.”



### “Remember Our Fallen Heroes”

If you look in the hearts of our heroes  
You'll see tears swelled with pride  
Yet underneath there's a shadow of sadness  
For the soldier no longer at their side.

Side by side they served with honor  
To God's arms they go one by one  
From the hearts of a grateful nation  
We remember our Daughters, our Sons.

Their selfless deeds have been many.  
Blood's been spilled in the sand for liberty.  
Without hesitation they guarded our freedom  
Over land, in the skies, on the seas.

They answered the cries of the hungry  
Liberated those whom were suppressed  
Courageously they safeguarded our glory  
With a loyalty that ceases to rest.

With love we pay homage to the fallen  
These patriots, our heroes, our friends.  
Who've paid the ultimate price for freedom  
And the flag they chose to defend.

Their service must never be forgotten  
Their deaths won't ever be in vain  
We vow to look after their families  
And hope our love will ease the pain.

This flag is to honor the fallen  
As a reminder Freedom is Not Free  
These heroes gave their lives for their Country  
They gave their lives for you and for me.

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Inspired By and Written For

*The Armed Forces Memorial Tribute Flag*



All profits go to The Armed Forces Family Aid and Relief Fund™ (AFFAR)™ established in 1991 to help aid military families facing financial crisis due to deployment or death. The fund is administered solely by the USO of Metropolitan New York and is available to members of all branches of the armed forces and their families. For more information call 845-877-1551 or go to:

[www.neverforgetflag.us](http://www.neverforgetflag.us)

