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## This Week's Aside

### Fly Your Flag Memorial Day



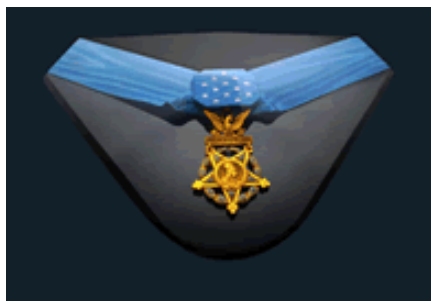
How to display the American flag on

Memorial Day:

1. At dawn, raise your flag briskly to the top of the mast and leave there for a few moments.
2. Lower slowly to half-mast and secure.
3. At noon, raise the flag to the top of the mast and secure.
4. At dusk, lower the flag slowly, remove, and fold.

## Weekly Challenge

### Remember Our War Heroes KIA.



Monday in America is Memorial Day. Join us in laying a wreath at the grave of a soldier who died for our freedom. We forgo our vocabulary list to bring you the names of ten soldiers who have been awarded the Medal of Honor...posthumously.

1. **Michael P. Murphy**, Lieutenant, U.S. Navy, June 28, 2005, Afghanistan.

## Weekly Grammar Tip

### On Writing Well...Adjectives



Do you want to be a better writer? Get *On Writing Well* by William Zinsser! Here's an excerpt on adjectives.

Most adjectives are...unnecessary. Like adverbs, they are sprinkled into sentences by writers who don't stop to think that the concept is already in the noun. This kind of prose is littered with precipitous cliffs and lacy spiderwebs, or with adjectives denoting the color of an object whose color is well known: yellow daffodils and brownish dirt. If you want to make a value judgment about daffodils, choose an adjective like "garish." If you're in a part of the country where the dirt is red, feel free to mention the red dirt. Those adjectives would do a job that the noun alone wouldn't be doing.

Most writers sow adjectives almost unconsciously into the soil of their prose to make it more lush and pretty, and the sentences become longer and longer as they fill up with stately elms and frisky kittens and hard-bitten detectives and sleepy lagoons. This is adjective-by-habit--a habit you should get rid of. Not every oak has to be gnarled. The adjective that exists solely as decoration is a self-indulgence for the writer and a burden for the reader.

Again, the rule is simple: make your adjectives do work that needs to be done. "He looked at the gray sky and the black clouds and decided to sail back to the harbor." The darkness of the sky and the clouds is the reason for the decision. If it's important to tell the reader that a house was drab or a girl was beautiful, by all means use "drab" and "beautiful." They will have their proper power because you have learned to use adjectives sparsely.

*On Writing Well*, by William Zinsser, HarperCollins Publishers, 2001, p. 71.

## Word of the Week

## tantamount

2. **Jason L. Dunham** , Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps, April 14, 2004, Iraq.

3. **Ross A. McGinnis** , Private, U.S. Army, Dec. 2, 2006, Iraq.

4. **Michael A. Monsoor** , Master-At-Arms 2nd Class, U.S. Navy, Sep. 29, 2006, Iraq.

5. **Paul R. Smith** , Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army, April 4, 2003, Iraq.

6. **William Wylie Galt** , Captain, U.S. Army, May 29, 1944, Villa Crocetta, Italy.

7. **Harold Gonsalves** , Private, U.S. Marine Corps, April 14, 1945, Okinawa.

8. **Gary I. Gordon** , Master Sergeant, U.S. Army, October 3, 1993, Somalia.

9. **Randall D. Shughart** , Sergeant, U.S. Army, October 3, 1993, Somalia.

10. **Herbert Joseph Thomas** , Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps, Nov. 7, 1943, Solomon Islands.

There are many...too many...more brave soldiers we can remember this Memorial Day. Between the gulps of burgers and the soda and the beer, may we encourage all of us to remember why it is a holiday, and to remember for whom it is meant to celebrate.

Source (and for complete citations of all MOH recipients):  
[www.history.army.mil/moh.html](http://www.history.army.mil/moh.html)



**Pronunciation:** TAN-tah-mount

**Function:** adjective

**Etymology:** obsolete *tantamount*, noun, equivalent, from Anglo-French *tant amunter* to amount to as much

**Date:** 1641

**Definition:** equivalent in value, significance, or effect

**Example:** "In most situations only penny-wise thinking and inherent

dishonesty would lead to a prescription by a subsidizer as to the outcome of research. This would be tantamount to a cigarette company's granting money for research into cancer, with the stipulation that it shall not be discovered that tobacco is in any way conducive to the spread of the disease."

- William F. Buckley, *God and Man at Yale* , p. 190, Regnery Books, 1986.

Definition source: *Merriam-Webster's Eleventh Collegiate Dictionary*.

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10 - Mister Lincoln rose.

7 - Red snapdragons.

3 - Begonias.

0 - Dandelions.

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