

## Memorial Day 2012

For many Americans, Memorial Day has come to symbolize family gatherings and the start of summer. But, as an agency that owes so much to the men and women who serve in our armed forces, we at NASA have traditionally set aside this day to honor our nation's fallen heroes in special ways. Whether through commemorative ceremonies at our centers or moments of private reflection, NASA employees are acutely aware of the indispensable role that America's brave service men and women have played and continue to play in defense of our country and in advancing the highest ideals of our democracy.

Military veterans have been aboard every NASA spacecraft from the first Mercury flight, through our current expeditions to the International Space Station. And thousands of service members have supported those and other missions as engineers, scientists, technicians and support staff. For those of us who have had the privilege of serving in the military and at NASA, Memorial Day reminds us of what a special honor it is to uphold military traditions while expanding America's reach into the heavens.

As this Memorial Day weekend approaches, I urge each of you to pause to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield as well as those who continue to risk their lives every day to protect the abundant freedoms and opportunities of this great nation.

It is my belief that the best way to remember those we've loved and lost is to look to the future, to serve in ways that honor their sacrifice and to rededicate ourselves to the work of keeping NASA and our nation strong.

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend!

*Charlie B.*

[View the Space Station Crew's Memorial Day Message](#)



Watch the Video

To view the space station crew's video message, go to:  
[http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/videogallery/index.html?media\\_id=144281731](http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/videogallery/index.html?media_id=144281731)