

Call to Action for a Patriot

21-Point Salute

Remembrance

1. Celebrate holidays as intended, even if only investing a brief amount of time.
2. Develop a plan for you, your family, team or organization for how you can make patriotic holidays meaningful.
3. On patriotic holidays, pause in prayer and remembrance for those who paid the price of their lives in defense of our country. A recent tradition encourages a moment of silence or ritual at 3 p.m. local time.
4. When you recite the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag and country, emotionally “stand tall” and feel the words to internalize meaning and encourage others to have respect.
5. Display the Flag of the United States from your home and place of work to keep one of the country’s strongest motivating symbols in sight and mind.
6. Include in your prayers remembrance of and appreciation for those fellow citizens who have served sacrificially.
7. When you hear the music of “Taps,” remember people you have lost and others who have lost loved ones.
8. Display a remembrance in your home or office that evokes positive meaning for you: statue of the American bald eagle, books or recordings, photo of a family member or friend in patriotic service, memento such as a medal or citation, photo of a memorial, framed messages or quotes that inspire you to remembrance and action.
9. Give an expression of appreciation to a veteran or the family—say “thank you for your service,” send a note or give a book with a note for lasting remembrance.
10. Read a story or watch a movie about military preparation and service that helps you understand—and remember.
11. Interview a service man or woman about preparation and sacrificial service for a program or paper.

Service

12. When our country is called into conflict, identify what you can do to fulfill your part.
13. Write your plan for life to include patriotic ideas from this book or your own thoughts for “Duty-Honor-Country” and professionalism when no one is watching, or other ideals to internalize and act upon as your best-self.
14. Consider and write how you can develop your competence and character to serve with distinction in your home, profession, and community to fulfill your callings and expand your contributions.
15. As you make tax payments for government services, remember, part of your obligation supports the systems and people who defend our country.
16. Include in your charitable contributions of time and money one or more that support patriotism and professionalism. Send donated items to the troops through places of worship and military support organizations.
17. Sponsor or attend a seminar about lessons and actions in military and civilian life.
18. Organize a program, moment of silence, or other ways to include others to internalize meaning of patriotism and professionalism and to encourage action.
19. If we are at war or in other challenging times, honor holidays as intended and be productive with at least some of the extra free time. Think beyond “business as usual” and transcend thoughts of some who treat traditional holidays merely as “days off.” Give extra effort as a volunteer, professional, or contribute based on your callings for doing your part when our country needs help.
20. Write to public and private leaders to praise good behavior, suggest ideas, and/or offer to help.
21. Vote for leaders of principle more than personality. Consider how candidates view our nation’s defense.