



Memorial Day and Jewish Congregations

Resources to Honor the Memory of American Fallen Heroes:

Shavuot through Memorial Day 5781

JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, a signature program of JCC Association of North America, is a Department of Defense endorsed agency ensuring meaningful Jewish life for those serving in the U.S. armed forces, their families and veterans. Not all Jews in uniform return to the embrace of their family following their service. For those killed in action, JWB is committed to supporting their families, Jewish Gold Star Families. Our support comes in many forms, including our commitment that we will not allow the memory of their fallen heroes to be forgotten. Therefore, we ask that you join us in identifying opportunities between Shavuot and Memorial Day to honor the memory of American and American-Jewish fallen heroes. Below, are resources that can be incorporated into your observances.

1. **Shavuot *Yizkor*** – JWB has designated the *Yizkor* service during the Festival of Shavuot and prior to Memorial Day as one dedicated to the memory of our country’s fallen heroes and to the Gold Star Families who mourn their loss. We encourage the incorporation of some of these resources within your *Yizkor* service:
 - a. A [recitation of the names of U.S. fallen heroes of all faiths](#) who have died within the past year.
 - b. A [recitation of the names of Jewish U.S. fallen heroes](#) who were killed since September 11, 2001.
 - c. The inclusion of [El Malei Rachamim for U.S. service members](#).
 - d. A [Yizkor Sermon](#) by Ch, Maj Steven Rein, USAF on the theme of fallen heroes.
2. **Shabbat Preceding Memorial Day** – We encourage your congregation to include the **Prayer for America’s Military Personnel/Song of Service** – This beautiful prayer, written by Rabbi Gerald Skolnik and set to music by Hazzan Daniel Mendelson, is available in its [English translation](#) to be read aloud, or as a [prayer to be sung](#) along with its accompanying [sheet music](#). You can also incorporate [this pre-recorded version](#) performed by Hazzan Daniel Mendelson into your service.

3.



[JWB Jewish Chaplains Council® National Jewish Community Observance of Memorial Day: Honoring Gold Star Families, Sunday, May 30 @ 7:00 PM EDT](#) is an online event for your congregants. We will hear the stories of Jewish fallen heroes killed in action since September 11, from the perspective of their families. Their personal loss will be framed throughout the program by Jewish military chaplains and leaders of the Jewish community, who guide us in committing to remember and honor their sacrifice. Below is language that can be used in promoting the event:

From the Revolutionary War through today's ongoing fight against terrorism, American Jews have served nobly in all branches of our country's military—and many are among our nation's fallen heroes. It is incumbent upon America's Jewish community, therefore, to mark Memorial Day for both its national and its Jewish significance.

During this year's National Jewish Community Observance of Memorial Day, the theme of which is "Together in Memory," we will hear from post-9/11 Jewish Gold Star Families. Members of these families—who have had a close relative killed in action—will reflect and reminisce about the lives and legacies of their loved ones. Jewish military chaplains and leaders of the American Jewish community will offer words of prayer and support, as well as a commitment to ever honor the memories of Gold Star Families' loved ones.

[JWB Jewish Chaplains Council®](#) (JWB) is a U.S. government-accredited agency that serves the religious needs of Jewish military personnel and their families, wherever they serve, as well as patients in VA hospitals. Founded in 1917, on the cusp of World War I, today, JWB Jewish Chaplains Council®, a signature program of [JCC Association of North America](#) honors the service of Jewish men and women in the United States armed forces, safeguarding their rights, fulfilling their spiritual needs, and combating loneliness and isolation.

The event will be shown at nmaih.org/events/jwb-memorial-day2021/

