

MEMORIAL DAY

-- President Bush's observance of Memorial Day includes a White House reception for military families and honoring fallen soldiers at Arlington's Tomb of the Unknowns ...--

BACKGROUND:

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans – the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) – established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared it should be May 30. It is believed the date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country. The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant and other Washington officials presided. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well as Richmond, Va. The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, Ill., cemetery

carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day. The Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971 Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, with some other federal holidays.

STORY:

President Bush is to mark Memorial Day with a wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery, paying special tribute to troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Bush and his wife, Laura, returned from a long weekend at their home in Crawford, Texas, on Sunday to prepare for Monday's holiday observance that included a White House reception for military families. They also were honoring fallen soldiers at Arlington's Tomb of the Unknowns, and Bush was giving a speech on the troops' sacrifices.



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SIGNIFICANCE:

President Bush's Memorial Day proclamation:

On Memorial Day, America undertakes its solemn duty to remember the sacred list of brave Americans who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom and the security of our nation. By honoring these proud soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen lost throughout our country's history, we renew our commitment to upholding the democratic ideals they fought and died to preserve.

Each Memorial Day, we pray for peace throughout the world, remembering what was gained and what was lost during times of war. From the bravery of the men at Valley Forge, to the daring of Normandy, the courage of Iwo Jima, and the steady resolve in Afghanistan and Iraq, our men and women in uniform have won for us every hour that we live in freedom. During this year's observance, we particularly recognize the courageous spirit of the men and women in our nation's armed forces who are working with our coalition partners to restore civil order, provide critical humanitarian aid, and renew Afghanistan and Iraq. As we honor those who have served and have been lost, we better understand the meaning of patriotism and citizenship, and we pledge that their sacrifices will not be in vain.

Throughout our history, the decency, character, and idealism of our military troops have turned enemies into allies and oppression into hope. In all our victories, American soldiers have fought to liberate, not to conquer; and today, the United States joins with a strong coalition in the noble cause of liberty and peace for the world. On this day, America honors her own, but we also recognize the shared victories and hardships of our allied forces who have served and fallen alongside our troops.

The noble sacrifices of our service men and women will not be forgotten. Every name, every life is a loss to our military, to our nation, and to their loved ones. Americans stand with the families who grieve, and we share in their great

sorrow and great pride. There will be no homecoming on this earth for those lost in battle, but we know that this reunion will one day come.

In respect for their devotion to America, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved on May 11, 1950, as amended (64 Stat. 158), has requested the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer. The Congress, by Public Law 106-579, has also designated the minute beginning at 3:00 p.m. local time on that day as a time for all Americans to observe the National Moment of Remembrance.

Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Memorial Day, May 26, 2003, as a day of prayer for permanent peace, and I designate the hour beginning in each locality at 11:00 a.m. of that day as a time to unite in prayer. I also ask all Americans to observe the National Moment of Remembrance beginning at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day. I urge the press, radio, television, and all other media to participate in these observances.

I also request the governors of the United States and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff until noon on this Memorial Day on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States, and in all areas under its jurisdiction and control. I also request the people of the United States to display the flag at half-staff from their homes for the customary forenoon period.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

Troubles at The New York Times



On May 11, The New York Times, in an extraordinary admission of journalistic fraud in at least 36 articles, called the repeated deceptions of reporter Jayson Blair "a low point in the 152-year history of the newspaper."

Describing Blair as "a troubled young man veering toward professional self-destruction," the paper recounted how the reporter faked stories from Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio and Texas without ever leaving New York, using a cell phone and laptop computer to disguise his whereabouts and deceive his bosses.

It is a portrait of a wide-ranging management failure as well, as the Times's top editors failed to heed one red flag after another while promoting Blair to national reporter.

Five Times reporters, two researchers and three editors conducted more than 150 interviews in producing a sweeping self-examination filling several pages that attempted to set the record straight and apologize to readers. "By November," the Times reported, "he was fabricating quotations and scenes, undetected. By March, he was lying in his articles and to his editors about being at a court hearing in Virginia, in a police chief's home in Maryland and in front of a soldier's home in West Virginia. By the end of April another newspaper was raising questions about plagiarism. And by May, his career at The Times was over."

Many news organizations have suffered major embarrassments over the last two decades. The Post returned a Pulitzer Prize in 1981 over reporter Janet Cooke's invention of an 8-year-old heroin addict. The Wall Street Journal's R. Foster Winans was convicted of selling advance information from his column. NBC staged a fiery truck crash on "Dateline." The New Republic

published 27 fabricated articles by Stephen Glass, and the Boston Globe several bogus columns by Patricia Smith. But in scope, breadth, pathos and sheer human inventiveness for covering his fictional tracks, Jayson Blair may have no equal, especially considering that his transgressions occurred at one of the nation's most prestigious and carefully edited newspapers.

Blair said he lost a cousin in the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon; the victim's family told the Times it was not related to Blair. Blair falsified expense accounts to make it appear he was traveling the country when he was at home. Blair last month described two wounded Marines lying side by side at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, though he was never there. While he did interview one of the men, Lance Cpl. James Klingel, by telephone, "most of that stuff I didn't say," Klingel told the Times.

In 1999, when Blair joined the Times as an intermediate reporter who would remain on probation until proving himself, the paper said everyone assumed he had graduated from the University of Maryland -- he had not -- and one editor soon told him he needed a more balanced lifestyle than drinking scotch and smoking cigarettes. He was also making plenty of mistakes -- there would be 50 corrections in 3 1/2 years -- and being lectured about his inaccuracies.

Blair's fiction-writing extended to his expense accounts. He said he bought blankets at a Marshalls department store in Washington, but the receipt showed the purchase was made in Brooklyn. He said he dined with a law enforcement official at a Tutta Pasta restaurant in Washington, but the Tutta Pasta was in Brooklyn. No one caught the discrepancies. Between late October and late April, Blair claimed to have filed stories from 20 cities in six states -- yet did not submit any hotel, plane or rental car receipts. Blair did not have a company credit card and his own cards were maxed out.

Media analysts said the damage -- 36 fabrications in Blair's last 73 stories -- could be

lasting. Blair has given no interviews since resigning and did not speak to the Times.

By Howard Kurtz

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STORY:

The New York Times named 20 staffers and two outside news executives Thursday to conduct "a comprehensive review" of newsroom policies after the Jayson Blair scandal, "to determine when, where, how and why our newsroom's culture, organizational processes and actions led to a failure of our journalism," according to a memo to the staff.

Blair, a Times reporter, resigned after the newspaper found fraud, plagiarism and inaccuracies in 36 of 73 of his articles from October to last month. The revelations set off a furor in the journalism world, led to an extraordinary public apology from the Times and a re-examination of the way it operates.

The committee will look at such issues as hiring and recruiting; detecting and preventing errors; ethical concerns such as the use of unidentified sources; and how the newspaper responds to complaints about stories. It will recommend changes to management.

Lack of response to complaints may be a more serious problem than has been reported. A USA TODAY survey of people who had been misquoted or had fabrications written about them by Blair found that most didn't bother to complain. But two who did call or write the Times said they couldn't get a response from editors.

NOTE: The New York Times has suspended Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Rick Bragg for two weeks, the Columbia Journalism Review reported, the same day the newspaper published an editors' note about his handling of a feature story about Florida oystermen.

The note said that while Bragg wrote the June 15 article and visited the Gulf Coast town where it originated, interviewing and other reporting at the scene were done by a freelance journalist working for the newspaper.

Peter Johnson USA TODAY

Update:

Sherpas Set Climbing Records on Everest Anniversary

-- In the May 12, 2003 issue, The Weekly Report described the 50m year anniversary of Edmund Hillary's historic climb to the top of Mt. Everest. Now, less then 2 weeks later, there is a record breaking update....--

Last week, a Nepali sherpa set a record for the fastest ascent of Mount Everest by reaching the top of the world's highest mountain in 10 hours and 56 minutes, the Tourism Ministry said. Lhakpa Gelu, 35, smashed the earlier record of 12 hours and 45 minutes set just three days before by another sherpa, Pemba Dorjie, as Nepal geared up for the 50th anniversary of the first ascent of Everest. Lhakpa was part of a German expedition. Normally, climbers take about a week to get from base camp at 5,350 meters (17,550 feet) to the summit of the 8,850 meter (29,035 feet) mountain.

A ministry statement said another sherpa, Aapa Sherpa, created a record for the maximum number of Everest climbs when he reached the summit of the Himalayan peak for the 13th time on Monday. Aapa, 43, improved his own record of 12 ascents when he reached the summit from the popular Southeast Ridge route, pioneered by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay



on May 29, 1953. He was last atop Everest in May, 2002. Aapa was part of a U.S. expedition focusing on picking up some of the decades-old trash left by climbers on the mountain.

A record of 65 expeditions are on Mount Everest this season which ends this week. More than 1,200 people have reached the Everest summit and 175 have lost their lives on the mountain.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

May 26, 1637

Pequot Massacres Begin

During the Pequot War, an allied Puritan and Mohegan force under English Captain John Mason attacks a Pequot village, burning or massacring some 500 women, men, and children.

As the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay spread further into Connecticut, they came into increasing conflict with the Pequots, a war-like tribe centered on the Thames River in southeastern Connecticut. By the spring of 1637, 13 English colonists and traders had been killed by the Pequot, and Massachusetts Bay Governor John Endecott organized a large military force to punish the Indians. On April 23, 200 Pequot warriors responded defiantly to the colonial mobilization by attacking a Connecticut settlement, killing six men and three women and taking two girls away.

On May 26, 1637, two hours before dawn, the Puritans and their Indian allies marched on the Pequot village at Mystic, slaughtering all but a handful of its inhabitants. On June 5, Captain Mason attacked another Pequot village, this one near present-day Stonington, and again the Indian inhabitants were defeated and massacred. On July 28, a third attack and massacre occurred near present-day Fairfield, and the Pequot War came to an end. Most of the surviving Pequot were sold into slavery, though a handful escaped to join other southern New England tribes.

www.thehistorychannel.com

WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW:

John Mason

John Moson, soldier, was born in England in 1600. In about 1630, he came to Dorchester, MA, and in 1635 he went to Connecticut where he helped to found the town of Windsor.

The slaughter of a party of whites at Wethersfield by Pequot Indians in April, 1637, called for retaliatory measures, and Mason was commissioned by the general court to attack them at the mouth of Pequot (now Thames) river. Accompanied by seventy Mohegan Indians and about 90 English soldiers, he reached the English fort at Saybrook in the middle of May. He secured the cooperation of 200 Narragansetts, and, having sent back his boats to meet him at the mouth of the Pequot, proceeded to Mystic river, toward the Pequot's two principal forts. Gaining an entrance within the palisades, they fell, upon the enemy. Finding it difficult to dislodge the Indians, he set fire to their wigwams, the whites and their allies forming a circle around the fort to prevent escape. Between 600 and 700 Pequots perished, seven were captured, and seven escaped. Of the English, two were killed and twenty wounded.



He then marched to the mouth of Pequot river, into which his vessels sailed soon afterward. They were attacked on the way by 300 Indians from the other fort. Mason, putting his wounded aboard the vessels, marched with a small Party to Saybrook. He then pursued the remnant of the Pequots toward New York, killed and captured many more, and divided the few who remained in Connecticut between the Mohegans and Narragansetts, stipulating that the very name of Pequot should become extinct.

After the Pequot war he settled at Saybrook, at the request of the inhabitants, for the defense of the colony. In 1659 he removed to Norwich. He was major of the colonial forces more than thirty years, and between 1660 and 1670 he was deputy governor of Connecticut. He was also a magistrate from 1642 till 1668. At the request of the general court of Connecticut he wrote an account of the Pequot war, published by Increase Mather in his "Relation of Trouble by the Indians" (1677). He died in Norwich CT, in 1672.

ENTERTAINMENT:

The Guy Can Sing

By now, almost the entire country has heard what happened on this season's finale of Fox's American Idol. But for those of you who missed it, here is the recap. In the closest vote in the show's short history, Ruben Studdard, the big boy from Alabama, took his velvety R&B to victory. A record 24 million viewers voted by phone and text message. Studdard's margin over Clay Aiken was just 130,000 votes, 50.28% to 49.72%.

The two contestants widely regarded as the best singers said they had grown close during the grueling tournament. Both are considered shoo-ins for album deals. The first Idol, Kelly Clarkson, went to No. 1 with her debut album, *Thankful*, and runner-up Justin Guarini and fourth-place finisher Tamyra Gray have upcoming albums.

Idol helped revive Fox's prime-time season after the network's weak fall start. For the season, the Tuesday and Wednesday *Idol* episodes rank fourth and sixth respectively in viewers and third and fourth in young adults prized by advertisers. Because of the closeness of the vote, says Tom Ennis of 19 Entertainment, which produces *Idol*, the plan is to release Studdard's and Aiken's singles on the same day so that the competition can continue on the charts.

SPORTS:

INDY 500

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Indy got its three-peat. No, it wasn't Helio Castroneves, whose bid for an unprecedented third straight victory in the Indianapolis 500 came up about five car-lengths short and monopolized the media. But teammate Gil de Ferran kept the Borg Warner Trophy in the family Sunday, giving Roger Penske another niche in the record book. The Captain joined Lou Moore (1947-49) as the only two car owners to win the race three years in a row. And no one comes close to touching Penske's record of 13 victories.

Two years ago, Castroneves won Indy on his first try, holding off de Ferran. This time, the order of finish was reversed but the team colors remained the same. Driving in pain, de Ferran passed his teammate and fellow Brazilian on the 170th lap, when Castroneves got caught behind the slow-moving car of rookie A.J. Foyt IV, grandson of the four-time 500 winner. De Ferran held the lead the rest of the way. Castroneves did everything he could to put his name into the history books, pushing de Ferran to the end and finishing only 0.299 seconds behind -- the third-closest finish in 87 Indy races. He got help from three caution periods that prevented Castroneves from building up momentum to go for a pass. De Ferran grimaced as he extricated himself from his car in Victory Lane. However, the frown quickly turned into a smile and tears as he hugged his wife and two children, then sipped from the most cherished drink in motorsports: a bottle of milk.

De Ferran might have been hurting, but winning Indy sure eased the pain. He even felt well enough to climb the fence in front of the main grandstand with Castroneves, mimicking Spiderman's victory routine the last two years.

FEATURE:

Civil War: The Road to War

Part IV

JOHN BROWN'S RAID: As soon as the 1858 elections were over, political maneuvering began over the 1860 presidential election. Many states were in the process of choosing delegates to the national conventions when news of a raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), swept the nation. On October 16, 1859, the raiders had seized the federal armory and arsenal there. They surrendered two days later. Authorities found that the raid had been led by John Brown, whose raids and murders in Kansas and Missouri had already made him an outlaw. Brown and his followers had planned to march their army into the South to forcibly free slaves. Brown was arrested, tried, and convicted. When he was executed for his crime, thousands of Northerners hailed him as a martyr, while Southerners became increasingly fearful of armed intervention in their states by Northern abolitionists.

ELECTION OF 1860: The slavery question overshadowed all others in the presidential election year of 1860. At the Democratic National Convention, held in Charleston, South Carolina, on April 23, the delegates from the South refused to support Douglas because of his position on slavery. The convention adjourned to meet on June 18 in Baltimore, Maryland. On May 16 the Republican National Convention met in Chicago, Illinois, and passed over the two most popular aspirants, William H. Seward and Salmon P. Chase to nominate the lesser known Abraham Lincoln. In Baltimore, at the reconvened Democratic convention, the Southern delegates walked out of the convention. Those who remained nominated Douglas. On June 28 the Southern Democrats nominated John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky. The

Democratic Party, long a unifying force in the nation, was thus split over sectional differences into two bitterly opposed factions. The Constitutional Union Party, a group of conservatives who condemned sectional parties, made a fourth ticket headed by John Bell.

Because of this division, Lincoln won easily, although he did not receive a majority of the popular vote. The popular vote was: Lincoln, 1,866,452; Douglas, 1,376,957; Breckinridge, 849,781; Bell, 588,879. In the electoral college, Lincoln received 180 votes against 72 for Breckinridge, 39 for Bell, and 12 for Douglas.

THE SOUTH SECEDES: During the campaign many Southerners had threatened that their states would secede from the Union if Lincoln was elected because they feared that a Lincoln administration would threaten slavery. Few people in the North believed them. A month before the election, however, Governor Gist of South Carolina wrote the governors of all the Cotton States except Texas that South Carolina would secede in the event of Lincoln's election.

As soon as it was certain that Lincoln had won, the South Carolina legislature summoned a special convention. It met on December 17, 1860, in Charleston. Three days later the convention unanimously passed an ordinance dissolving "the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States." Similar conventions were held by other Southern states, and similar ordinances were adopted, although not by unanimous votes. The first states to follow South Carolina's course in 1861 were: Mississippi, January 9; Florida, January 10; Alabama, January 11; Georgia, January 19; Louisiana, January 26; and Texas, February 1. In April, Lincoln called for states to send militias for national service to suppress the rebellion. The upper South refused to send their militias to coerce the seceded states. Instead they joined the lower South in secession beginning with Virginia on April 17th; Arkansas, May 6; North Carolina, May 20; and Tennessee, June 8.

More Information: April 14, 2003, May 5, 2003, May 19, 2003 and upcoming issues.

Quote of the Week:

In the field of world policy, I would dedicate this nation to the policy of the good neighbor.
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Word of the Week:

elide (i*lid') v.t. To cut off or suppress – as a syllable.

Fact of the Week:

Birthplace of aviation? Dayton, Ohio.

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And
Have a Great Week!

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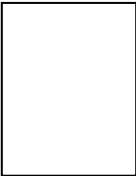
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