

Hallowed Ground

The world abounds with famous tombs across the globe: the pyramids of Egypt were constructed as tombs for the ancient pharaohs. Scholars estimate it took over 20,000 workers over 20 years to construct the largest of the 3 pyramids at Giza.

The Taj Mahal was built in the 17th century by the Mughal emperor to entomb his beloved third wife Mumtaz Mahal, after she died giving birth to their 14th child.

Arlington National Cemetery is something of hallowed ground for our nation's heroes. One can find there the tomb of the unknown soldier on which the words are written: "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God." There is also a memorial in honor of the astronauts who perished on board the Space shuttle Challenger in 1986, as well as the grave site of John F. Kennedy.

In New York City, at the site of the old World Trade Center, there is a memorial to the victims who died on 9/11. It is seen as hallowed ground as so many Americans lost their lives there that day. The grave site of someone you love or someone who died trying to save others is a sacred place.

In the Gospels, the women were the first to go visit the tomb of Jesus on the Sunday morning of His resurrection. They thought they were going to show respect to the body of a dead Jesus, to anoint his body with spices as was the custom of the day.

However, when they arrived, they were stunned by the sight of an angel who had rolled away the stone entrance to the tomb. The angel said: "Why seek the living One among the dead?" There is nobody here: come and see the place where He was lying!

Of course - - - He is risen! Jesus, by His death conquered sin and the grave.

In a few weeks we will be observing Memorial Day in recognition and respect for those who have given their lives in the service of their country. Let us give them their due honor for their great sacrifice on behalf of their country.

While remembering their great sacrifice, let us also remember the greatest sacrifice ever made: that of Jesus Christ on Calvary, crucified for sinners and risen again. Let us remember how His death and resurrection gives the only hope beyond the grave for life in glory. **'Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies."**
[John 11:25]