

# MAY NEWSLETTER



*"It is not that we have a short time to live, but that we waste a lot of it."*  
- Seneca

## 3 Interesting Facts You May Not Have Known About Memorial Day

[firstcoast.com](http://firstcoast.com)

Each year, Americans spend the Memorial Day long weekend relaxing with friends and family and ushering in the summer months. However, while the holiday is often treated in a celebratory manner, its true purpose is to honor and commemorate all those who have lost their lives while serving their country in conflicts both at home and abroad.

As you observe Memorial Day this year, here are some interesting and lesser-known facts to keep in mind:

- It was originally called Decoration Day. The traditions surrounding Memorial Day began in the wake of the Civil War, which claimed the lives of over 600,000 soldiers. After the war, veterans in both the North and the South would decorate the graves of their fallen comrades with flowers. In 1868—three years after the Civil War ended—veteran John Logan established Decoration Day to be recognized on May 30. On that day, people would be encouraged to continue the tradition of placing flowers on the graves of their lost loved ones. In fact, the reason why Logan chose May 30 was that flowers would be in full bloom by that time. The first official National Decoration Day ceremony was held at Arlington National Cemetery and presided over by General Ulysses S. Grant.
- Memorial Day was not an official holiday until 1968. By the 1960s, the holiday had come to be known as Memorial Day rather than Decoration Day, and was intended to commemorate Americans who had sacrificed their lives in all the country's wars, rather than just the Civil War. However, despite the prevalence of Memorial Day events and ceremonies across the country, it was not recognized as an official federal holiday until the passage of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act in 1968. This Act also established several other American holidays to fall on Mondays, including Labor Day, Veterans Day, and years later, Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Memorial Day is one of the few days when flags are ordered to fly at half-staff. Specifically, the proper etiquette for anyone flying an American flag is to raise it quickly to full-staff, then slowly lower it to half-staff until noon, when the flag should briefly be raised to the full-staff position once again to serve as a salute for those who have fallen in the line of duty. In addition, at 3 p.m. local time, Americans are asked to pause for one minute to silently pay their respects.

# Honey Soy Grilled Pork Chops

delish.com

## Ingredients:

- 1/4 c. honey
- 1/2 c. reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Red pepper flakes
- 4 boneless pork chops

## Directions:

- Mix together honey, soy sauce, garlic, and red pepper flakes in a large bowl.
- Add pork chops, cover, and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes or up to 2 hours.
- Heat grill over medium-high heat and cook until seared and cooked through, 8 minutes per side. Let rest 5 minutes before serving.

# What Home Sellers Should Know About Virtual Staging

redfin.com

If you're planning to sell your home, you are likely familiar with the concept of staging, or the process of adding or rearranging furniture and décor in order to make each room more appealing to buyers. But in today's digital age, it's no surprise that virtual staging is an increasingly popular option. Here's what to know:

- **How much does virtual staging cost?** Virtual staging tends to be far less expensive than traditional staging. While the exact rates will depend on where you live, the service providers you work with, and several other variables, virtual staging generally costs between \$39 and \$199 per room, while traditional staging can cost up to \$600 per room. However, your realtor will be able to provide the best advice as far as which option will yield the greatest return on investment when it comes to your ultimate sale price.

- **How does virtual staging work?** Like traditional staging, the goal of virtual staging is to highlight the home's best features in order to make it more attractive to buyers. However, virtual staging is done by computer—there is no real furniture or décor involved. Instead, professional virtual stagers digitally add decorative elements to high-resolution photos of the home.

**How can you tell if virtual or traditional staging would be better for your home?** As convenient as virtual staging may seem, traditional staging may still be the right option for some homes. As a general rule, virtual staging works best for homes that are vacant, have outdated furniture, or are currently occupied by tenants. If, on the other hand, you still reside in your home and your furnishings could be rearranged or enhanced, traditional staging may yield better results. In addition, you could take a hybrid approach, with some rooms staged virtually and others traditionally if you and your agent feel that would be best.



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