



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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The Ohio National Guard pays tribute this Memorial Day

By Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman, Ohio adjutant general

COLUMBUS, Ohio — This Memorial Day weekend, a grateful nation will honor the men and women who've proudly worn the uniform of the U.S. military and died while protecting their country.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the United States entering World War I. The Ohio National Guard made significant contributions and sacrifices during the "Great War." The majority of the Ohio National Guard was organized into federal service as the 37th Division, known as the "Buckeye Division," and participated with valor in major campaigns in France.

There are stories of individual heroism, including 2nd Lt. Albert Baesel, a native of Berea and a member of Company B, 148th Infantry, who earned the Medal of Honor for sacrificing his life trying to carry a wounded Soldier back to friendly lines near Ivory, France in September 1918.

In recent years, we've grieved as 15 Ohio National Guard heroes have lost their lives while deployed overseas since 9/11.

National Guard Soldiers and Airmen will pay tribute to those who've served before us by participating this weekend in parades, providing color guards for ceremonies and flying in formation over communities across the state. Members of the Ohio National Guard will carry the memorial wreath May 25 during the Governor's Wreath Laying Ceremony, an annual Memorial Day observance at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus.

We must never forget the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice in military service to our country.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For a complete bio and high-resolution official photo of Maj. Gen. Bartman, visit http://ong.ohio.gov/TAG_ATAG/tag_index.html. [Read more](#) about the Ohio National Guard's involvement in World War I.

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