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# New Yorkers gather for Memorial Day celebrations

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By The Associated Press KAREN ZRAICK (Associated Press)



Photo credit: AP | New York Mayor [Michael Bloomberg](#), center right, and City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, center left, march during the Little Neck-Douglaston [Memorial Day](#) parade Monday, May 30, 2011, in Little Neck, N.Y. The parade is known to attract servicemen and prominent politicians from New York metropolitan area. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

## Photos



NEW YORK - (AP) -- New Yorkers marked Memorial Day with ceremonies in honor of those who gave their lives for the nation, including a poignant tribute at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum on the west side of Manhattan.

Military jets thundered over the sunny deck of the Intrepid in missing man formation, with one jet veering east while the others continued due north. After a traditional wreath-laying into the [Hudson River](#) and the playing of Taps, the sounds of a three-volley rifle salute rang out,

harkening back to an old wartime custom signifying the fight could resume after casualties had been cleared from the battlefield.

[Vietnam](#) veteran and [New York Mets](#) general manager Sandy Alderson attended the ceremony at the aircraft carrier, which is now a museum, and paid homage not only to the fallen but also to veterans and active-duty service members.

"We only get to play ball every day or go to the field and watch ball every day because people have been defending us for 250 years or so and it continues," Alderson said.

Cmdr. William Herrmann, the commanding officer of the [USS New York](#), constructed with steel salvaged from the [World Trade Center](#) after the Sept. 11 attacks, said Memorial Day has several layers for him.

First, it's about honoring the fallen, he said. But it's also an opportunity to remember the sacrifices made by families of service members, including those killed in conflict zones.

"Their families have had to give up so much," said the married father of six.

Lower Manhattan resident Lynn Berat brought her young daughters to the Intrepid, outfitted in matching red, white and blue sundresses.

"I think it's important that they understand the spirit of Memorial Day instead of just barbecuing," she said.

Cheryl Dupris, 57, who served several tours in [Iraq](#) and [Afghanistan](#), corralled a group of female veterans to attend. It's important for veterans to see that the public appreciates their service and remembers those who died for the country, she said.

The day was particularly moving for some this year because of the upcoming tenth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. On that morning, Dupris was at her job in sales and marketing at Verizon. Two hours later, she was at a local armory, helping members of the [National Guard](#) mobilize. She would go on to multiple deployments and see firsthand the stress that the armed forces were put under.

"Everybody wanted to help in any way possible," she said of the fraught days following the attacks.

The ceremony was one of dozens of events marking the holiday across the city. In [Brooklyn](#), Civil War re-enactors held a march in historic Green-Wood Cemetery featuring artillery and musket salutes and singing.

Mayor [Michael Bloomberg](#) spoke at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in upper Manhattan and marched in parades in Whitestone and Little Neck-Douglaston in Queens.

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