



THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
**THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX EPISCOPATE OF AMERICA**

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The Most Reverend Dr. NATHANIEL Popp, Archbishop

**May 20, 2026**

**United States of America Memorial Day 2026**

Included in the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States, a National Memorial Day Parade will march from near the Capitol building down Constitution Avenue to the National Mall.

Although most Americans will not be present in body, they can be “in spirit”. This National Memorial Day Parade of honor and remembrance, it should be understood, is not financed by the Federal Government but by Veteran associations and by citizens.

The general Orthodox community from its presence in the United States (and Canada) experienced sharing sons and daughters to serve in the various Armed Forces in W.W. I, W.W.II, the Korean War, Viet Nam, Afghanistan and other arenas of tragic conflicts.

The Romanian Episcopate, as an integral part of the Orthodox community in The United States and Canada, also bears witness to the sons and daughters whose sacrifices and dedication served their loved ones at home and their entire Nations.

Our parishes proudly display photographs of those brave soldiers of these wars. They have erected plaques in the social halls and corridors honoring the names in displaying them.

The V. D. Trifa Romanian American Heritage Center also displays photos, plaques and honors of military and support groups whose memories are cherished.

The Episcopate, from its inception, has blessed and honored her sons and daughters who served in defending the freedoms and rights of the nation’s people, their parents and siblings, wives and children, relatives and friends and the generations to come.

**Saint John the Evangelist quotes our Lord Jesus** saying: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” Thus, as Americans celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence this year, and keep this Memorial Day, may the remembrance of those who gave their lives in service and to those who are honored, who returned home serving in other capacities, be blessed as those who heard the word of the Lord and kept it.

May we who also hear and keep the word of the Lord not forget them on this Memorial Day of 2026. Memory eternal!

† **NATHANIEL**, *Archbishop of Detroit*  
*and of The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America*

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