

# MEMORIAL DAY 2023

A sobering tribute passed on to me from Grand Republicans past President, Frank Rizzo, as we approach Memorial Day 2023 (**My parenthetical comments in smaller, bold font**):

About six miles from Maastricht, in the Netherlands, lie buried 8,301 American soldiers who died in "Operation Market Garden" in the battles to liberate Holland in the fall and winter of 1944.

Every one of the men buried in the cemetery, as well as those in the Canadian and British military cemeteries, has been adopted by a Dutch family who mind the grave, decorate it, and keep alive the memory of the soldier they have adopted. It is even the custom to keep a portrait of "their" American soldier in a place of honor in their home.

Annually, on "Liberation Day," memorial services are held for "the men who died to liberate Holland." The day concludes with a concert. The final piece is always "Il Silenzio," a memorial piece commissioned by the Dutch and first played in 1965 on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Holland's liberation. It has been the concluding piece of the memorial concert ever since.

The year of this video (**not included by me here**) is 2014. The soloist is a 13-year-old Dutch girl, Melissa Venema, backed by André Rieu and his orchestra (the Royal Orchestra of the Netherlands). This beautiful concert piece, "Il Silenzio," is based upon the original version of taps and was composed by Italian composer Nino Rossi.

Also, did you know: (**This was included in the forwarded message. I have not attempted to verify/confirm.**) 104,366 Americans are buried in military cemeteries in Europe. The U.S. saved Europe twice..... at a huge price in lives and \$. (**How utterly tragic to see what our once great nation has been reduced to by the radical/socialist Left.**)

1. The American Cemetery at Aisne-Marne, France... A total of 2,289
2. The American Cemetery at Ardennes, Belgium... A total of 5,329
3. The American Cemetery at Brittany, France... A total of 4,410
4. Brookwood, England - American Cemetery... A total of 468
5. Cambridge, England... A total of 3,812

6. Epinal, France - American Cemetery... A total of 5,525
7. Flanders Field, Belgium... A total of 368
8. Florence, Italy... A total of 4,402
9. Henri-Chapelle, Belgium... A total of 7,992
10. Lorraine , France... A total of 10,489
11. Luxembourg, Luxembourg... A total of 5,076
12. Meuse-Argonne... A total of 14,246
13. Netherlands, Netherlands... A total of 8,301 **(as described above.)**
14. Normandy, France... A total of 9,387
15. Oise-Aisne, France... A total of 6,012
16. Rhone, France... A total of 861
17. Sicily, Italy... A total of 7,861
18. Somme, France... A total of 1,844
19. St. Mihiel, France.. A total of 4,153
20. Suresnes, France... A total of 1,541