

May 27, 2024

BOYCOTT Shinnyo-en Floating Lantern Hawai'i Responds to Public Criticism

You guys need to get a life. You don't own Monday. The Japanese don't celebrate your stupid holiday. Shut up.

From: **Jeff Chao**
jchao1218@gmail.com

Aloha e Jeff ~

We realize your generation has never sacrificed for America and expects everything to be free, convenient and easy. Some gave ALL so you can spout off silly comments. Japanese are honorable people who work very hard not to offend others or their culture. Both you and Shinnyo-en should learn from them.

This is entirely disgraceful and embarrassing. Why are you babies crying just because someone is not celebrating a holiday that you celebrate? It's their own culture—GET OVER IT! You are all a bunch of BABIES! No wonder everyone here hates the military. NO ALOHA! NO AMERICAN SPIRIT! Just a bunch of babies in a stupid uniform.

From: **Beth Dingstrom (likely fake name)**

Aloha e Beth ~

As you and Jeff listed the same phone number, we'll respond using the same email address. Memorial Day Monday is not a holiday that we or others celebrate. It's not a CELEBRATION at all. There are over 53,000+ dead brave and valiant American men and women heroes lying in honor at Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific. They do not get to celebrate. They do not get to do anything ... they are dead. They gave their LIVES so you can celebrate — each day, every day, year after year after year.

Decoration Day, which became Memorial Day, was started by Black women suffering the pain and loss of so many brothers and fathers in 1865 after the end of the US Civil War. They wanted to show their tremendous appreciation for the enormous sacrifice of both White and Black men who stood up, gave their lives, to end the immoral practice of human slavery.

They did not celebrate. They mourned. They decorated the graves of the fallen in deep and solemn reverence and admiration for human beings who gave so much to people they did not even know.

And, that is the meaning of Memorial Day. We work not to celebrate, but to remind a selfish, entitled and privileged American culture that ALL your freedoms derive from their sacrifice. We don't ask you to honor them. We have simply asked you to hold this day sacred for them ... and join us educating this Japanese Buddhist Order that Monday is for them — as we graciously and simply asked that Shinnyo-en host their beautiful and touching Floating Lantern Hawai'i event on Sunday.

We didn't realize asking you this simple request would cause you so much distress and trauma. Wish both you and Jeff much happiness, joy and luxury in your lives — PAID FOR IN BLOOD by these fallen heroes of our precious freedoms.

I'm so excited to spend my Monday today at the lantern festival! Crying when another culture does not celebrate your holiday is so childish. Can't wait to see how you guys act so we can show the whole world how violent and idiotic you haoles are.

From: **Ben Dover (fake name)**

Aloha e Ben,

Realize you do not have the courage to speak to the USA military face-to-face. I'd be scared to be you as well. You also responded referring to us as "haoles." Many people in the islands use this racist slur to address White people, who generally are from mainland USA. People like you used to call Black people N_ggers and referred to Asians as Ch_nks. Memorial Day Monday was established to honor White and Black Union soldiers who gave their lives to free Black human beings. They fought and died to end racism. You further it.

Freedom unfortunately allows uncivil people to speak unjustly and with ignorance. We can understand why you hide behind your keyboard and submit comments anonymously. The heroes we honor today died so you can live freely. You abuse the tremendous privilege they gave you. One day, when you mature, possibly you'll understand the price they paid. You didn't earn anything.

We've posted your comments on our website.

Me Ke Akua e aloha ~

