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Memorial Day

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The meaning behind Memorial Day is concealed by a race and a day off of school and work. When one pulls off the cover that consists of cars speeding around a track and cookouts, one can see the decorated graves of loved ones lost in order for people to have freedom. Bruce Lambert wrote an article for the *New York Times* titled “Recalling the Meaning Behind Memorial Day.” He includes in his article, “ In 1868, Maj. Gen. John A. Logan ordered that: ‘The 30th day of May is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land’” (Lambert). Memorial Day is in memory of the men and women who raced for their life on the battlefield so that Americans would have the freedom to watch cars race around a track.

Memorial Day is about the father, husband, son, brother, mother, daughter, wife, or friend that lost their life in the line of duty. War is not a video game that is played on a television screen nor is it a dramatic addition to make a movie or book action-packed. It is a reality in which millions of families face the day they look into their loved ones’ eyes to say goodbye—not knowing whether it could be the last time. War is a nightmare made into a reality into which men and women alike volunteer themselves in order to gain confidence that their American people are eligible to maintain their freedom. America would not be America without the soldiers that put their country before their own lives.

Memorial Day is a day to honor the men and women who kissed their loved ones goodbye before they left for war and never returned. The U. S. Department of Veteran Affairs explains further on their website The National Moment of Remembrance under “Memorial Day History.” The article states, “The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation” (“Office”). Although it is a significant day to recognize the fallen, it is important to remember them daily. Each soldier has an impact and a relevance to each American’s daily life. The families of a fallen soldier—it is your honor to be related to such a hero.

This day should not only be a day to remember the fallen heroes, but also to inspire Americans to live a life, embracing the gift of freedom. Wallace Bruce, a poet, once said in his poem “Memorial-Day,” “Who kept the faith and fought the fight; The glory theirs, the duty ours.” It is the American public’s duty to rise above the hatred that has consumed this country and join together, because regardless of race, gender, or religion, we are all American. Thank you to the fallen soldiers who have fought for the right to claim that title—American.

Bibliography

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