

June 4, 2018

Well Memorial Day 2018 has come and gone, like so many in the past. There were parades and memorial services to our fallen veterans as well as another long held tradition and event the Kenetic Sculpture race with all its fanfare.

It is interesting to see how this holiday is celebrated throughout the country. Most will take advantage of the time off and go to places that bring them joy, such as going camping or to the ocean for the day or just having a barbeque with family and friends.

Much of my family went to Ruth Lake and enjoyed the warm weather along with swimming and fishing. Memorial Day weekend started out wet and cold this year with a storm passing through on Friday but by Sunday we were back to warm weather during the day with pleasant evenings. A great way to start off the summer, which will be here before you know it.

We must consider why we have such a holiday and what it really means. Memorial day was established to honor and remember those who have died in the defense of our country in the many wars and conflicts we have had over the years. World War I , World War II, Korea, Viet Nam, the Gulf War, and our present conflicts throughout the Middle East.

Here in Humboldt County Ferndale, Eureka and Fortuna regularly have parades or memorials of some kind to honor those that have paid to ultimate sacrifice. Some will question

Americas involvement in these wars and conflicts but Memorial Day is not about that but rather it is to honor the fallen.

Memorial Day has relevance for me personally, I have a son currently serving in Afghanistan, my father and Father-in-law both served during World War II in the Army Air corps in B-17 bombers and my brother served during the Viet Nam conflict. I spent 32 year in law enforcement during which time I lost friends in the line of duty.

We in America have been asked many times to stand in the face of aggression and serve when it has not been popular at times but our priority should be to honor those who did serve and did so with honor and distinction. The men and women who answer the call to service need our support for them to complete their mission and return home to normal life.

If you haven't served in the military or law enforcement it may be difficult to understand the sacrifice so many are asked to commit too. It is important to remember our hero's who serve on a daily basis and especially those who have fallen.

So I hope you enjoyed the holiday but also remember someone along the way has made it possible to live in the greatest country in the world. This has been Mike Downey for community comment.