# Some think Memorial Day is all about parades and BBQs, do you agree?

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Have you ever not had a BBQ, or went to an amusement park on Memorial Day?  Memorial Day is a specific day to appreciate those in the military who have fallen in battle. Take time to remember those who have fallen and pay tribute to the families that lost someone. Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day and became an official holiday in 1971 by Congress. Decoration Day began in May 30th, 1868. General John, A. Logan created a nationwide day of remembrance for the Northern and Southern Civil War Veterans. Decoration Day was chosen to start on May 30th, because it was not a specific date of any battle.

We should take a day to remember and praise the men and women in the military who fought for this country and gave their lives.  That day is Memorial Day. "The pain of losing a loved one serving their country is profound and deep. Sadness and pride collide.  It is a time that should not be confused with potato salad and charred hot dogs, "(Statesman Journal, 2017). People jump right into BBQs and other fun stuff and they forget that we should be paying tribute to people that lost their lives for this country. They died so that we can be free and be Americans, not so that we can get a day off from work, or get discounts.

Memorial Day is not a day to be thanking your service members, it is a day to remember those service members who have died for this country. At 3pm Memorial Day it is common to take a moment of silence for those who have fallen. "The surviving spouse or other family member may suddenly be solely responsible for the family's financial situation or simply have to face the challenges of being alone," (PBS). Family's situations can suddenly change out of the blue, and leave them with nothing. Memorial Day should also be a day of helping and supporting the families that lost one of the most important things in their life

It is important to pay tribute to the families that lost someone on Memorial Day. These people are in pain and just need support on this day.  "As some people gear up for their beach weekends and day parties at the start of summer, Arlington Cemetery will be packed and there will be nothing happy about the tears there. Those are the people truly in need of Memorial Day wishes, prayers and good vibes — not me" (Luderman). The pain of losing a friend is the same trauma as being the only survivor of a team attack. These people need condolences more than we need a beach vacation.

Memorial Day is not just about spending the day with your family and getting discounts at the store then going to the beach. While you are shopping at stores getting discounts from other people's pain, just think about what these families are going through. While you are relaxing on the beach with your families, just remember, these people are suffering and grieving because of what was taken away from them. These people need support not sales. They need to be reassured that people have their back and that things will get better. If you are off at an amusement park, having fun with you family, stop and think to yourself. This day is about remembering those who died for this country. Why am I at an amusement park having fun, when I should be remembering those who laid down their life for this country?

Memorial Day is the perfect day to be thankful for those who have fallen for this country, take time throughout for day to pay tribute to those who died and support those who have lost a loved one. Memorial Day is not meant for thanking our loved ones in the military, or going out to an amusement park. Memorial Day is meant to honor the people that helped fight for this country and gave the ultimate sacrifice.