

Essay Winner 2021 Runner Up-August (Gus) Borski

Meaning of Memorial Day

For thousands of people across America, Memorial Day is a celebration of summer finally here. Think of what you do for the so-called holiday. Do you have a barbecue, or maybe you go somewhere on a vacation? But Memorial Day is no day to celebrate. It is a day of remembrance, which is one of the last things on most people's mind. They think it is a day to celebrate America, but they don't realize it is really a day to remember our fallen comrades. There are men and women who gave up their lives for you to have one. Those brave Americans, drafted or not, walked up to battle and stood their ground. They did not know if they would see their family again, and many did not. Those are the people we celebrate on Memorial Day. Those who hoped and dreamed of going back home and being with family and friends again, but never got the chance to. The last thought for many of them was life or death. That is no way to die, yet that is how one million brave Americans go down; in unmarked graves with few knowing the sacrifice they made. Think of the beauties of life, the simple things you enjoy every day, and then think of that being cut short, to never experience that emotion again. It is arguably the biggest sacrifice you can make, yet so many do exactly that. So why is it that so many people make the mistake of celebrating instead of feeling empathy for those fallen ones. Since Memorial Day is the last Monday of May, that means every year it will be a three-day weekend. Would you rather spend that three-day weekend celebrating or remembering the fallen ones? It is greedy, but the answer for pretty much anyone who has not served the country is to celebrate. Not only is it a three-day weekend but then summer starts. That is why people celebrate instead of thinking of those who gave their lives for you and me. We find it easier to celebrate, but it is wrong of us to do so. You

should at least take some part of your day to remember those who fought and died for your freedom.