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Memorial Day: A time to reflect

President Franklin Roosevelt said, "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy, forget in time that men have died to win them."

With hectic lives we lead today, it might be easy to think of Memorial Day as merely a three-day weekend.

It's much more than that. It is a time for our nation to reflect -- to remember and honor the airmen, soldiers, Marines, Coast Guard and civilians who made the ultimate sacrifice defending and its ideals. Memorial Day is an opportunity for Americans to pay homage to those who died serving our nation and to acknowledge the immense debt we owe them and their families and the loved ones they left behind.

Heed President Roosevelt's warning and never forget the brave men and women who died to earn us our privileged "American way of life."

As a grateful nation pays tribute to our brothers and sisters in arms who gave the last full measure for their country, we thank them for their service, hard work and dedication, and all they do every day for America.

Please take a moment of silence to honor these men and women on Memorial Day and let us not forget it's not just another three-day weekend.

Semper Fi.

Michael Herr, Columbia