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Monday, May 26 the nation will be celebrating the Memorial Day holiday. This is the day most of us think of as the beginning of summer. We open the pools, put out the lawn furniture, plant our outdoor plants and assume or hope the frost season is behind us. I am concerned that this holiday along with many others have become just that. A day we recognize and celebrate but forget the real reason for the creation of the day. Memorial Day (Decoration Day) was first established in 1866 to honor and remember all the lives that had been lost due to the Civil War.

It has since become a day to honor all who lost their lives in the line of duty protecting freedom. Because of those individuals, we enjoy and often take for granted a freedom that is not enjoyed by many throughout the world. Every day we conduct our daily activities in an environment of freedom and choice. I've said this before and I say it again, I feel so fortunate to have been born and lived in the greatest country in the world. I hope we never forget the price that was paid and the obligation each of us have to preserve these freedoms and give energy to ensure they are maintained. I listened to an owner of a local company speak recently and he explained how he came to this great country when he was 18. He arrived here with nothing but the desire to succeed. Through perseverance and hard work he realized his dream. The comment was made after hearing his brief story; if you can't make it America you can't make it anywhere. It has certainly been the land of opportunity due to those that gave their lives to maintain the freedoms originally created by the founders of our country. The Village will again be participating in the Memorial Day celebration. Please join the Veterans on the south side of the fire station for the celebration parade that starts at noon. Again, prizes will be provided for all children that join the parade with bikes decorated in a patriotic theme. The VFW will conduct the ceremony in the cemetery and be serving hot dogs and hamburgers at their facility immediately following the ceremony. Please join us to honor and show our appreciation for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. As always, I encourage you to shop local, be informed, be involved and visit www.middlefieldohio.com.