

## **What Memorial Day Means To Me**

**By: Amelia Dayton / May 12, 2017**

To tell you the truth, up to this point, I have not really thought a lot about Memorial Day. I have read articles and saw pictures displaying horrific battle fields and I have been moved by the honorable lives and deaths of American Soldiers. Sadly, this is where it usually stops for this generation; the sympathetic acknowledgment of those who have fallen. Having several family members in the military has broadened my understanding of the enlisted one's role. I have heard many stories from my grandad's days in the Korean War, but it was not until my grandad made a statement that I will never forget, that caused me to consider how lightly we esteem their sacrifice. His statement; "Your generation does not understand true sacrifice, commitment, or national pride. Your generation has not been a part of a war." While it is true that not everyone in my grandad's generation fought on the war front and not everyone signed up to serve their country, but everyone was a part of the war. "This might not make sense, but it was a popular war." My grandad's reply when I probed a little deeper into his original comment. Everyone was proud to be a part of the war cause; our freedom. The American people supported the war not only by sending over their sons and daughters, but also by using the freedom provided by those who served. They used their freedom to pursue their dreams while helping others pursue their own. This present generation has become self-centered. It saddens me to see so many people disrespect our soldiers, veterans, and those who have fallen on their behalf. We are not using our freedom to set others free, but using our freedom to bind others up. One example of bondage is being "politically correct," our soldiers have given up their lives not for us to be offended, but for us to use our freedom of speech to set those around us free. Where has our national pride gone? We are more concerned about what our nation is doing wrong, than what we can do as free people to better it. I pray that not only on Memorial Day do we honor those who have fallen by remembering, but every day let us use what they have provided for us; freedom. Let us sacrifice our self-centeredness and commit to liberty by taking pride in our country again.