



The month of May slipped by pretty fast and as we get older, the slipping is even faster. Why is it that when we were in Mrs. Alberts class, the month of May seemed to last half a year? In Mrs. Noser's class, May only seemed to last 4 months. Of course it's all perspective. When you're young, only the summer seemed to go fast and the school year was slow. But as we age, we know that each day, whether we're 7 or 70, is the same 24 hours. But it's hard to imagine that the same 24 hours today goes at the same speed as the day when we would get to those Iowa Basic tests. I think I would have done much better on those if they had been the Rhode Island Basic tests.

Memorial Day will soon be here. This year is special for me as I was honored when asked by the Commander of the West Concord American Legion, Tom Turner, if I would speak at this year's ceremony at the Concord Cemetery. It's always well attended and I will see many familiar faces.



My earliest recollection of Memorial Day was as a young kid. My mom and I would go to the Hegre Church Cemetery on the Goodhue and Dodge County line just north of West Concord. The honor guard would do the 21 gun salute and I would be in there very quickly after they were done shooting to get as many shell casings as I could. I did learn that you don't want to pick them up too soon after they were fired as they're still hot. As I grew older, the real meaning of Memorial Day started to sink in. We honor those men and women who served this country and gave the ultimate

sacrifice. It started out after the Civil War as Decoration Day and that continued until after World War 2. It was celebrated on May 30<sup>th</sup> each year but it was not until 1967 that Congress made Memorial Day official. Memorial Day in the early 1970's went from being held on May 30<sup>th</sup> to the last Monday in May.

I think, like many probably do, that we expand who we remember on this special day. We certainly remember the warriors who died in the military. We also remember those who served but returned home to their families and have since passed away. We remember those who were perhaps a family member or neighbor who have passed away and were not in the military but served the country in other ways. It's always been said that the U.S. had the best fed military in the world thanks to this country's agricultural might. Farmers maybe didn't go to war, many did, but those efforts from those who were on the farms were certainly invaluable. And during the wars of the 20th century, there were not a lot of women who served directly in the military, but they did their part in many different ways. They kept the home fires burning if you will. First and foremost though, we remember those who died, from Normandy beach to the jungles of Vietnam or the myriad of other locations of war, and we'll give them the honor and respect that they've earned.