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Set aside a few minutes on this Memorial Day. Shut your eyes. And imagine an unbroken column of march, ghost warriors shoulder-to-shoulder and ten wide, stretching back across our history for 100 hard miles.

Then picture a peaceful Monday in late-May, flags fluttering, settled on your front porch to watch this lost legion trudge past. Be patient, for it will take over 36 hours for the last soul in this parade to pass you by.

This is the human toll America has paid for all of the wars in which we have fought: 1.2 million men and women who never came home. These sons, daughters, brothers and sisters put on the uniform, took the oath and signed a blank check; and, sadly, more than a million of those checks were cashed. These Americans were prepared to die so we Americans might rest secure at home.

So, on this Memorial Day, steal a few precious moments before the potato salad, brats, and burgers. And share with your children and grandchildren why we pay tribute to those we have lost. Tell them why we thank our servicemen-and-women for all they do. Knowing that today, because of what they have sacrificed, we can play and party and rest, then sleep in peace.

Larry Cassidy
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