

# A Thank You to Our Heroes

The ability to wake up every day and think about risking your life for your country is not an ordinary human quality. It is an extraordinary one. It is a quality that all fallen heroes who have served our country have possessed.

As Cranbury residents and more importantly as Americans, we must remember the wise words of Franklin D. Roosevelt: *“Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them”*. Memorial Day is a day set aside to remember the heroism shown by the soldiers in the U.S Armed Forces, and those who have risked their lives for something greater than themselves. Freedom, liberty, and independence come at a high price, and it is thanks to those men and women who paid for it that we are where we are today.

Take, for example, the American Revolutionary War. 4,435 brave soldiers died because of their belief in freedom. They paved the way for the future of America and to them we owe an unbelievable amount of gratitude and thanks. Some trace the history of Memorial Day to a group of liberated African-Americans in South Carolina who started celebrating the holiday after the Civil War. It was once called Decoration Day because it was a tradition to decorate the graves of the fallen. Congress declared it a national holiday in 1968 and towns across the country have had parades since then. While Memorial Day marks the beginning of summer with barbecues, sales, and outdoor games, its true meaning lies in the remembrance of our American heroes.