

5-20-15 County Judge's Article

MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE

With May 25 being Memorial Day and having the honor as County Judge this coming Monday to make a few brief comments at the ceremony on the court house lawn by the monument on which all the names are listed of the Milam County soldiers who gave their lives for our country, I wanted to make a comment in this week's column as well.

I've heard our Knights of Columbus and Veterans of Foreign Wars officials read off every one of those names now for the last dozen years or so. You might say, "How boring." But as I look around each time at the faces in the crowd, I realize that among them are sons and daughters, recent moms and dads, comrades, loved ones, there looking on... to them these are not just names on a granite wall.

And they shouldn't be just names to the rest of us either. They are the ones that died so that we might remain free. Do you really believe that? If enough of us forget, one day soon that freedom will be gone forever.

There is nothing boring about reading those names! We ought to all be standing there weeping with gratitude as each name is read. It's that important. We just don't get it. I know I don't, I'm just as complacent as the next guy.

National Memorial Day is a day set aside to remember all those who sacrificed their lives for our nation from the Revolutionary War on. It is intended that Taps be played everywhere at 3 PM followed by one minute of silence to commemorate our fallen. If you don't play the trumpet, simply recite the words:

"Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky,
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh."