

Third Place Fourth Grade

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Class 4-209

How Defending our Nation Preserves our Nation

Memorial Day is a day to honor and remember those who died bravely, making the ultimate sacrifice, in service to our country. We honor our heroes from all of our past wars who **"defended our nation to preserve our nation."**

In its 237 years, the United States has been involved in a dozen major wars to **defend our nation, preserve our freedom and democracy, and serve our national interests.** The major conflicts include the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the Wars against Terrorism, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our armed forces have gone into harm's way many other times too.

Many have been killed or died. The number of military dead is over 1,200,000. In World War II alone, America lost over 405,000 of its young men and women. Hundreds of

thousands have been wounded, and many have suffered as prisoners-of-war.

It is fitting that on this Memorial Day, the Little Neck Douglaston Memorial Day Parade observes the 65th anniversary of the Korean War Cease-fire, remembers all those who fell in this war that has still not ended and thank all those who stand guard for us. It will also honor the United States Navy, for protecting our friends and defending our shores for 243 years. In addition, paying respect to our Vietnam Veterans by remembering 1968, the bloodiest year of war and all those who fought there.

To quote one of our recent presidents, "*...there is no higher calling than service in our Armed Forces. We live in freedom because every generation has produced patriots willing to serve a cause greater than them. Those who serve today are taking their rightful place among the greatest generations that have worn our nation's uniform...*" if it weren't for the many different people who make up our military and defend our nation, our nation would not be preserved. We should all think about the service of all of our heroes and reach out and thank one!