

ASAC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Monday, May 31, 2021

Good morning! It is the week of May 31st, the last week of May 2021 and the first week of June. We have just observed Memorial Day, a day where we remember the men and women of the armed forces who have died either in service to our Country or have served and died sometime later. Like you, I have read many memorials, listened to others tell their story of remembrance and observed individuals and organizations who make that extra effort and place flags, wreaths or other items of remembrance at the gravesite of American heroes.

The value of remembrance is that it helps us to manage time past, enhance the present time and gives us continuity and meaning for times to come. I have more memories than my young son, but his mother and I are creating memories for him that will help shape the man he will become. Memories can be burned into our minds, but memories even of big events, life changing events can deteriorate over time if not given proper attention. As time passes, those who have first-hand knowledge of an event are gone and yet the event is of such significance that we must keep that memory alive because it defines who we are as a Nation and is a teacher of what was and what is possible. Memorial Day is an opportunity to realize what we have and the cost of what we have. Memorial Day tells our story as a Nation and for so many families it tells their story on a very personal level.

I hope you took this Memorial Day and remembered and appreciated the millions of men and women who have given their life so that we can have the life we so often take for granted. I hope you took this Memorial Day and helped the young people in your life to understand the cost of freedom. For many of us, the cost of freedom has not touched us personally and so we have a greater appreciation as we live the benefit and have not borne the cost. Not my words, but my thought is with a strong healthy memory, you can overcome mental barriers to achieve success in your personal, professional and academic life. Without it, you will find yourself struggling at every turn.

I encourage you to deliberately make memories, capture them like a camera snaps a photo. The days and years come and go, but your memories are yours for the keeping.

As I share my thoughts with you this week, my words are a bit somber, but I have paused because Memorial Day presented me with the opportunity to remember.

This week, masks are down smile at a stranger. Hold the door for someone, hug your spouse, play a game with your kid and be that someone that people look forward to seeing each day. We have been given much, pay it forward and make it a good week.