

MEMORIAL DAY THOUGHTS

With so many graves to decorate, my thoughts have been turning to the lives of people who have passed on many years ago.

I owe a great deal to those who are gone. My grandparents who immigrated from Italy to seek a better life for their families. The realization that I am the fulfillment of their dreams humbles me. My parents implanted values and ethics in me by which I try and live. Those lessons from the past hold my family together and perhaps are the ideas which are the glue that holds the fabric of society together.

There are also the untold thousands, most of whose names we don't know, who gave their lives defending our liberties on the battlefields of the world. We should be mindful of those who have given their lives so we could live in a country that allows us to teach our children those important values and ethics.

Being a person of great hope in the future, I believe that life is one continuous round. I believe that death here is a form of birth into a new and better life beyond. May this Memorial Day, therefore, bring you happy memories of loved ones who have come and gone. May you influence the lives of others as they influenced yours.

Ronald P. Bernardi

President