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Top Stories

Riverhead

Wednesday, May 21

NEWS SEARCH

Willmotts and why
Nots

Point Of View

Letters To The Editor

This Week

Upper Half

Outdoor Corner

Parents Life

Health Life

Our Story

Fun and Games

Advertising
Information

Contact Us

Classifieds

Obituaries

[Advanced search](#)

Memorial Day 2008

By:David J. Willmott Sr.
05/21/2008

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This coming Monday is Memorial Day, a federal holiday set aside to honor the men and women in our armed forces who have given their lives or been wounded in the various wars.

In our recent history there was

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a time when just about

everyone turned out for

Memorial Day services to

show their respect and to pay

tribute to our armed forces.

Today, parades are not even

well attended. No longer do

you see crowds on the streets

waving small American flags or saluting in respect as our flag moves past, carried by an honor guard.

In my hometown of Riverhead, there is a memorial on school property located on the corner of Pulaski

Street and Osborn Avenue. For years, every soldier who had lost his life in the world wars had his

name listed on this metal plaque. Several years ago, a veteran of foreign wars called Suffolk Life and

said the plaque with the names on it was missing and a generic plaque had been put in its place. We

had two reporters try to find out who made the decision to remove the original plaque and who had

carried out this dastardly deed. We still have not been able to get an answer to our question.

No one seems to care anymore. There are thousands of men and women who are serving our country

overseas. They are fighting to keep America free. Most of these soldiers are lonely, they miss home,

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they miss the people they grew up with and they miss their families. To show your respect, why not sit down and write a letter to an unknown soldier? Tell them who you are, what's going on in your life. Tell them how much you appreciate the sacrifices that they are making. For more information on how to send a letter to a soldier, visit www.anysoldier.com or www.americasupportsyou.mil.

Yes, you can do something meaningful this Memorial Day to show your appreciation and your support.

And why not?

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