



Our View: Pay tribute to our fallen heroes today

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On the west side of the pond at Auburn's Hoopes Park, as part of the larger Healing Field: Field of Hopes and Dreams display that's been up since Thursday, a group of 458 flags stand straight and proud. From a distance, just like the roughly 2,000 flags on the other side of the water, they inspire American pride.

But take the time to walk up to some of those flags in the smaller groups and read the tags affixed to the poles. Each card has a name of a military veteran from Cayuga County who was killed serving this country, dating back to World War I.

Read these names and think about how these people were just as much a part of this community as you, your friends and neighbors are today. Think about the circle of friends and co-workers who mourned for these deceased veterans. Think about the spouses, siblings, parents and children whose lives were dramatically and permanently shaken because the person named on that tag was suddenly gone.

Quickly, those 458 names add up to thousands of local people directly affected by this ultimate sacrifice.

Indeed, a quiet walk among those flags on the shady side of that pond is a good way to drive home the meaning and importance of Memorial Day.

Of course, the Healing Field isn't the only place where that can happen. Cemetery services are taking place throughout the county today. Some communities are holding parades. The television will be broadcasting national Memorial Day events.

In the midst of whatever you might be doing today to enjoy the freedom we so often take for granted, try to make some time to pay tribute to the fallen heroes for whom this holiday has been established.