To Honor And To Remember

by Ashley Murphy

Monday, May 25, 2009 was Memorial Day. This day is set aside on the last Monday of every May to honor and remember those men and women who died while serving their country in the military. Not only should we honor those who died, but we should also take time to thank those veterans we still see for



their bravery and courage. Without all of these men and women fighting for you and I, and the United States as a whole, we would not have the freedoms we have standing today.

A local memorial service was set at 10:30 am on Memorial Day in front of the courthouse here in Cleveland, TN. It was held to honor those military men and women who resided in Bradley County. The service drew in a large crowd, not only of veterans, but family and community supporters as well.

The ceremony included several guest speakers, who were veterans themselves, and speakers who read lists of the names of those who died in service in each war, including

Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland, Master of Ceremonies; Jeff Morelock, Remembrance of World War I; Joe Davis, Remembrance of World War II; Bill Norwood, Remembrance of Korean War; Bob Meeks, Remembrance of Vietnam War. Mayor Rowland also read the names of three solWorld War II veterans remain alive across the United States today, with an average of 1,000 dying everyday. There are only 6 confirmed living veterans



diers who have died since the start of the War in Iraq in 2001.

A final roll call was held and concluded with the names of all of the men and women who were veterans, but have passed away since last Memorial Day. Included in that list of names was Leo Murphy, a World War II veteran. He is the late husband of *The People News* Feed Bag columnist, Pauline Murphy. It is estimated that 2 to 3 million

across the world from World War I, all of whom are in there 100's.

The Memorial Day Ceremony concluded with a 21 Gun Salute given by the Bradley County Veterans Firing Squad. As Taps was performed by the Cleveland High School Band Buglers and Drummers, several broken sobs and cries could be heard across the crowd, paying respects to family, friends, and fellow military personnel.

Remember, if you know someone who is a veteran or recognize someone as a veteran, thank them for their years of service. Not only veterans, thank those

who are currently serving in the military as well. They're continuing what those before them fought so hard to gain, preserve and protect...our freedom.

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