**America**

[**A friend**](http://www.mondaymunchees.com/)**’s grandfather came to America from Europe and after being processed at Ellis Island, he went into a cafeteria in New York City to get something to eat. He sat down at an empty table and waited for someone to take his order. Of course, nobody ever did. Finally, a man with a tray full of food sat down opposite him and told him how things worked. “Start at that end,” he said, “and just go along and pick out what you want. At the other end they’ll all tell you how much you have to pay for it.” “I soon learned that’s how everything works in America,” Grandpa told our friend. “Life is a cafeteria here. You can get anything you want as long as you’re willing to pay the price. You can even get success. But you’ll never get it if you wait for someone to bring it to you. You have to get up and get it yourself.”** [***(Bits & Pieces)***](http://www.mondaymunchees.com/)

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**Today, May 26th, 2025, is Memorial Day**

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[**Are soldiers still dying for freedom? For most Americans, Memorial Day simply marks the beginning of summer, said Andrew Bacevich. That’s what the holiday meant to me, too – until three years ago, when my son was killed fighting in Iraq. Now, when I visit his gravesite, I’m haunted by “uncomfortable questions” about why he and so many other brave Americans have died in the service of the country. We like to tell ourselves that “the fallen gave their lives so we might enjoy freedom,” and certainly that was true of those killed in the battle of Gettysburg or on Omaha Beach. But in recent decades, from Vietnam to Bosnia to Iraq to Afghanistan, “the connection between American military intervention and American freedom has become ever more tenuous.” In playing world policeman, the U.S. repeatedly has become “engaged in never-ending wars that we cannot win and cannot afford.” It’s easy to blame politicians for sending young men like my son to die in another nation’s civil war, fighting for goals no one can define. But as citizens of a democracy, we all bear some responsibility. Perhaps that’s worth thinking about, as we light up our barbecues and head to the beach. *(The Week magazine, June 11, 2010)***](http://www.mondaymunchees.com/)

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**May 26th, 2025 -** [**Washington’s army was trapped in Trenton *(Dr. D. James Kennedy, in Let Us Remember)***](http://www.mondaymunchees.com/)

[**May 19th, 2025 - Statue of Liberty *(Thomas Fleming, in Reader’s Digest) little things add up***](http://www.mondaymunchees.com/)