

# Memorial Day celebrations should make Belmont residents proud

To the Editor:

The crowd may not have been huge, but American pride and solemn remembrance was at the Belmont Memorial Day ceremony.

As the son of a WWII veteran, I would like to express my great appreciation to the Belmont Veterans Associations who put together this Memorial Day parade and service. In the world today, many of us think of Memorial Day as just a “long weekend” and “great barbecues.” Belmont’s Memorial Day service brought the true spirit and reverence of the day to our weekend – remember-

ing our veterans and fallen heroes. Having so many of our children and youth involved made it extra special. It is the next generation that will keep American pride alive.

I would also like to recognize Ms. Lauren Fountain and the Belmont High School Band for helping to make the Belmont Memorial Day parade and ceremony a wonderful occasion. The band did a fantastic job bringing the spirit of patriotism to the event. Their performances of patriotic songs were spirited, and exceptionally well played. Especially touching was the

performance of “Taps with Echo.” The trumpet players performed the song flawlessly, and the echo effect of the second trumpet player was especially haunting as the melody drifted in from a distance in response to the first player. The Belmont Middle School and High School is especially fortunate to have found such a passionate and dedicated band leader in Ms. Fountain. Her commitment to the children and to excellence is obvious and inspiring.

Our great appreciation to all the parade participants; the speeches by historian,

Wallace Rhodes and our beloved veterans; prayers by our clergy; the wreath laying ceremony; the Girl and Boy Scouts; the commitment of our police, fire and emergency teams; and the professional musicianship of the Belmont High School Band. The entire Memorial Day ceremony should make all of the citizens of Belmont proud. Thanks to all for providing us such a wonderful, memorable and inspiring Memorial Day ceremony!

**Mike Iacopucci  
Belmont**