

On Memorial Day weekend, people enjoy reuniting with friends and family, remembering relatives and veterans who have died, and watching the Greatest Spectacle in Racing. These are worthwhile traditions that I would make into a float for the IPL 500 Festival Parade.

The sides of the float would be lined with thousands of red tissue paper poppy flowers to symbolize veterans who died in battle. In the very center of the float would be a rectangular stage, also lined with lots of red tissue paper poppies. In the middle of the stage would be a United States flag. On each of the two long edges of the stage, there would stand five people representing the five branches of the military, for a total of ten soldiers. There would be a woman and a man for each branch. All would be in their dress uniform waving to the crowd.

On the right side of the float, there would be three go-karts that are painted to look like duplicates of Indianapolis 500 cars. In the karts, three fourth grade students would be dressed up as Will Power, Helio Castroneves and Pippa Mann. At the front of the go-karts, a man will be waving a checkered flag.

Friends and family would be at a cookout on the left side of the float. There would be a man cooking hamburgers on a grill. Several children would be throwing water balloons at each other. There would be a picnic table with chips, soda, ketchup and mustard.

The theme song of the float would be “Happy” by Pharrell Williams. Happiness is flowing everywhere on Memorial Day weekend; in swimming pools, in back yards, in Indianapolis, and in the honor we give veterans for helping keep our country free.

Ladies and gentlemen, start your summer!