



In Memorial

A Day to Honor Those Americans Who Died Defending Our Nation

A tremendous sense of country, nation, patriotism and pride fills us whenever we see the images of another Navy, Air Force, Marines, Army, Reserve or Guard unit called to duty and sent on their way. Ours is a nation whose independence was won by those in the armed services, and ours is a nation whose freedoms have been continually protected ever since by the brave men and women serving in our military.

Memorial Day was originally proclaimed by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, on May 5, 1868. It was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of soldiers of the Union and the Confederacy at Arlington National Cemetery. Originally meant to honor the fallen soldiers in the Civil War, after World War I, Memorial Day was changed to honor all those who died in any American conflict.

One can look to the history books to get a sense of the enormous debt we as free people owe those we send off to war, but perhaps no better lesson serves than to turn on the evening news or read the day's paper. Right here today, thousands of American men and women are defending the tenets of democracy in Iraq, Afghanistan and a host of other hotspots around the globe. Our military men and women are making clear progress in these conflicts and we must continue to support our uniformed men and women that unselfishly sacrifice on behalf of all Americans.

As in all our wars past, America's service men and women are sacrificing a great deal so that we here at home can enjoy the rights that freedom makes possible. And, as an inescapable burden of warfare through the ages, many fighting under the Stars and Stripes over these past months have made the Supreme Sacrifice. And so it is that fate and circumstance return some in our Armed Forces home under a far more solemn procession than the one that sent them off to battle. We are thankful for their service; we are sorrowful for the loss.

The General Assembly passed several bills this session honoring Missouri Veterans, the most significant of which was House Bill 437. The legislation authorizes a contribution check-off box on state income tax forms that will go towards the Missouri Military Family Relief Fund. The fund will be

administered by the Adjutant General who will make grants to families of persons who are members of the Missouri National Guard or those Missouri residents that are members of the reserves of the armed forces of the United States who have been called to active duty as a result of September 11, 2001.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

Thank you for your time.

Senator Jason Crowell represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry and Scott counties in the Missouri Senate.