



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Delbert Scott
28th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 221
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the
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**Contact: Debbie Poiré
(573) 751-8793**

Honoring Sacrifice

JEFFERSON CITY – For 87 years now, November 11th has been set aside as a federal holiday dedicated to the cause of world peace. President Woodrow Wilson declared the first “Armistice Day” to recognize the service of American soldiers and our allies in defeating Germany and her allies in “the war to end all wars.”

The word “armistice” was later replaced to recognize the service of our military personnel in World War II and the Korean War, and President Dwight Eisenhower issued the first “Veterans Day Proclamation” in 1954.

For many years we have marked Veterans’ Day with parades, solemn ceremonies at military cemeteries and gatherings such as this.

At Arlington National Cemetery, ceremonies take place at the Tomb of the Unknowns, which represents the brave missing and unknown service members from four different wars. The President or his representative will place a wreath at the tomb, followed by the playing of “Taps.”

We truly are a blessed nation and have been from our founding. The brave and the bold who led the charge for a United States of America understood the price of freedom. They were confident this new republic would stand the test of time, but realized it would not come without sacrifice.

These same founders would be pleased today to say thank you to the many who have fought to preserve and defend the United States of America. Young and old alike who stepped forward during a time of need and answered America’s call to defend freedom; a call to liberate and not to take; a call to risk their lives for something greater.

Today these brave men and women fight to defend freedom in the mountains of Afghanistan and the deserts of Iraq. In fact, the forces of the United States military are located in nearly 130 countries around the world performing a variety of duties from combat operations, to peacekeeping, to training with foreign militaries. Some of these deployments have existed for nearly 50 years, as in Japan, Germany, and South Korea, while other deployments have more recent origins such as the liberation of Iraq.

Soldiers from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve have been mobilized to support operations both in the United States for homeland security duties and for operations globally, including Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Joint Guardian and in the Sinai with the Multinational Force and Observers. Our Guard and Reserve members are also first on the scene when disaster strikes, such as a tornado or a flood.

To these men and women, we say thank you. We will remember your sacrifices and we will pray for your families.

We are forever indebted to your faithful service that allows us to continue to say, God Bless the U.S.A.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.