

Delbert Scott 28<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Capitol Building, Room 416 Jefferson City, MO 65101

A Column for the Week of: May 18, 2009

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## **Celebrating Memorial Day by Remembering Those Who Served**

Memorial Day weekend typically kicks off the beginning of summer for many Missourians. Thousands of citizens will be out and about this holiday weekend enjoying what our state has to offer. While we celebrate this holiday with our friends and family, we must remember why we acknowledge this day and honor those who served to protect our freedom.

With the excitement of summer around the corner and more outside activities becoming available, many people have forgotten the meaning and traditions of this national day of remembrance. It saddens me to see some of the graves of fallen soldiers ignored, the tradition of Memorial Day parades that are long-forgotten, and the lost art of proper flag etiquette.

I urge you to get out in your community and honor the true meaning of Memorial Day — a day when we should remember our ancestors, family members, loved ones, neighbors, and friends who have laid down their lives for our country.

You can get involved by visiting cemeteries and memorials and placing flags or flowers on the graves of our fallen heroes. If you can, fly your U.S. flag at half-staff until noon. And if you have them, don't forget the Prisoner of War (POW) flag and Missing In Action (MIA) flag. You can also participate in a "National Moment of Remembrance" at 3 p.m. Citizens typically take this time to reflect on the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Donating your time to help our country's veterans is also a wonderful way to show your appreciation and share your support. There are various veterans service programs located around 28<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District:

- **Barton County**: C. Janeene Pierce, Veterans Service Assistant; Room 203, Courthouse; Carthage, MO 64836 (417) 359-1515
- Benton, Hickory, and Pettis County: Lloyd Knox, Veterans Service Officer; 816
  Westwood; Sedalia, MO 64301 (660) 530-5544
- Cedar and St. Clair County: William Gillette, Veterans Service Officer; Missouri Veterans Commission; 621 E. Highland Ave., Suite 3; Nevada, MO 64772 (417) 448-1133
- Dallas County: Paula Nordin, Veterans Service Officer; P.O Box 1298; Lebanon,
  MO 65536 (417) 532-6754
- **Henry County**: Robert (Bob) Blum, Veterans Service officer; Missouri Veterans Home; 1300 Veterans Road; Warrensburg, MO 64093 (660) 543-7930
- **Polk County**: David Schad, Veterans Service Supervisor; 1410 S. Kansas Expressway, Room 115; Springfield, MO 65807 (417) 895-6532

We must remember why we gather with our family and friends during this holiday weekend. Memorial Day is a time set aside to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the freedom we hold today in our country. It is important that we come together and honor those who gave their lives while fighting for our most cherished God-given rights. Please join me this Memorial Day and remember those who have served and are continuing to serve this great country we call home.

If you have any questions about this column or other legislative matter, 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.

