

Honoring America's Fallen Heroes

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Memorial Day is a time to honor our neighbors who have given their lives protecting our freedom and defending our liberty. These brave men and women put themselves in harm's way to defend America, her values and her message of hope, human dignity and freedom.

We honor our fallen heroes to remind their families that their sacrifice was not in vein. To ensure that we honor the ideals for which they died. We honor these heroes as a way of teaching our children that freedom is not free and that freedom and liberty are not merely words carved in stone on a monument but a burning patriotism that resides in each of our hearts.

It is fitting that veterans lead us on this solemn day of remembrance and reflection. It is the men and women who fought alongside our fallen heroes who are best able to share the valor of their fallen comrades and remind us of the horror of war and the meaning of duty.

We should use Memorial Day as a time to reflect on the many challenges facing our nation. We need to recommit ourselves to our citizens who defend us and ensure that those who have served are honored. We need to make the sacrifices necessary to ensure that our men and women in uniform get the training, equipment and rest that they need to do their missions and come home safely. We need to make sure our veterans are treated honorably and receive the best medical care available. As a nation we have the moral responsibility to live up to the promises we made to our veterans, not change the rules decades after they fulfilled their commitment to our country.

Finally, we need to take the time and pray for the families who have lost a loved one or had a family member wounded. We need to pray for our men and women in uniform and their families. We need to pray for our elected leaders that they may have the wisdom to know when it is necessary to put America's best in harm's way and when it is time to bring them home.

Congressman Tim Mahoney

Florida's 16th Congressional District.