



Proclamation

Throughout America's history, brave citizens have answered the call of duty to help defend the principles of our great nation, and in so doing, have spread peace and democracy while protecting the safety of Americans back home. We are deeply indebted to our Armed Forces, especially to those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

As a nation, we set aside the last Monday of each May as Memorial Day to pay tribute to the service men and women who sacrificed their lives for our country and to honor their memory by reflecting on the blessings of liberty that they have upheld on our behalf. All our soldiers, sailors, aviators, Marines, reservists and members of the Coast Guard and National Guard took an oath to defend America. For fulfilling this oath with courage, decency and selflessness, and epitomizing our country's very best qualities through their valiant efforts, we are forever grateful.

We also appreciate the new generation of Americans who are carrying on the legacy of our nation's loyal patriots in protecting our country, advancing freedom and laying the foundation for a more peaceful tomorrow. As a nation, we pray every day for these brave men and women's safety. We also pray for their families, who support those in uniform during times of war and peace, and who inspire us with their fortitude.

Memorial Day gives the citizens of our nation the opportunity to ensure that our fallen heroes did not sacrifice their lives in vain. By showing our respect and gratitude for their personal courage, love of country and dedication to duty, we perpetuate their legacy. Since 1950, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation calling on all Americans to observe the final Monday of each May as Memorial Day, and designating an hour when we can unite in prayer for permanent peace. Congress has also designated a minute in the afternoon as a National Moment of Remembrance for all Americans to observe on this solemn day.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby order the Hawai'i State flag to be displayed at half-staff on all state and county buildings in conjunction with the United States flag from sunrise to noon on Memorial Day, May 25, in deep respect for all patriots who have given their lives in support of this nation. I also strongly encourage all of our citizens to join their fellow Americans in observing the National Moment of Remembrance beginning at 3 p.m. HST.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-first day of May 2009.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i