



KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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The following is a column by Governor Kathleen Sebelius:

Memorial Day 2008

Monday, May 26th marks Memorial Day. It is a solemn day when we remember the courage and sacrifice of each man and woman who has given their life to further the liberty of all people in this country and throughout the nation. Every day that we live with peace and freedom at home is a day made possible by these brave soldiers and airmen.

140 years ago, in 1868, our nation held the first Memorial Day to honor those who died in the Civil War. The principles at the heart of that war are those on which this very state is founded – freedom, justice and equality for all people.

My father and father-in-law fought in World War II, as did my four uncles. My mother's older brother, Don, did not survive the war, so our family knows the sorrow and sacrifice of losing a loved one in service.

In our past battles as well as in our current conflict, Kansans pay a heavy toll, as have members of our military family stationed at Ft. Riley. Families and friends of those who gave their lives in these conflicts will join us at a ceremony at Fort Riley in remembrance of their loved ones.

It is for them that we set aside this day to reflect, to honor and to express our thanks.

We stand behind our military men and women and their families.

We honor them in our thoughts, our prayers and our actions.

We pledge to support them while they serve and should they make the ultimate sacrifice, to comfort and care for those they leave behind.

We are united in our determination to honor their service and the family's sacrifice on Memorial Day and every day.

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