

**ALAUX 05-13 - MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGES**

25MAY2013

May 24, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

On Memorial Day, we recognize and remember the service and sacrifice of our armed forces men and women who have given their lives defending our nation, at home and abroad.

This holiday is a time to pay tribute to members of our military and to honor the spirit of sacrifice that has helped make our nation great. We also recognize the United States Coast Guard personnel, reservists and National Guard members serving throughout DHS, as well as the 50,000 military veterans who continue their service to our country here at DHS.

Wherever you are on Memorial Day, I encourage you to observe our National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time. This act of solidarity honors the fallen and reminds us all of the importance of our mission and carrying on their legacy.

Thank you for your continued service to our country.

Yours very truly,  
Janet Napolitano  
Secretary

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SUBJ: MEMORIAL DAY 2013

1. On this day we pause to pay special attention to the manners of our profession and remember all those who have given their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces, and honor the sacrifice they made in answering our Nations call.

2. Last week I had the privilege to visit the National Archives and view the original Declaration of Independence. I was also able to read the original United States Constitution, the document that is the foundation of our great Nation. It was a reminder of why we serve, but it was also a reminder of the sacrifices so many have been called to make since it was first signed almost 226 years ago. In donning

the cloth of our nation, we all swear to support and defend this charter of freedom, and bear true faith and allegiance to the principles it contains. It is on this Memorial Day that we remember those who have honored that oath with the sacred treasure of their lives.

3. Originally known as Decoration Day, it was first observed by decorating the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers as a tribute to their service. On Thursday I was privileged to join with many in our Coast Guard family to continue that tradition while presiding at their dedication of the Coast Guard War Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Decades of weather and exposure had taken their toll on this memorial, but our Washington, D.C. Chief Petty Officers Association answered the call to restore this monument to our fallen Shipmates. It now stands once again as a fitting memorial to so many who gave so much in the service of their country.

4. At the original dedication of this Memorial, Secretary Mellon said that we best honor their sacrifice by being ready to live, as they were ready to die, for the things that America believes in and for the principles for which she stands. As we reflect today upon those who gave their last full measure of devotion, it is important that we pay tribute to all our women and men in the Armed Forces doing just that, standing the watch and fighting to preserve our freedoms. It is their dedication to duty that secures our Nation. It is their commitment that protects us. It is their service that inspires us. It is our duty to honor them. On this Memorial Day, let us reflect upon our heritage and the proud legacy of our fallen shipmates.

5. Admiral Bob Papp, Commandant, sends.

6. Internet release authorized.