

Memorial Day

I was given the privilege to speak at the flag ceremony at Colonial House on Memorial Day.

On Memorial Day, we remember all those who died in defending our country. Memorial Day was first instituted to remember the war dead of the Civil War. After World War I, the day was dedicated to the war dead of all American conflicts.

In the two and one-third centuries since the Declaration of Independence, Americans have fought and died in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, Desert Storm, and now the War on Terrorism. Americans have fought and died for freedom from foreign rule, for freedom from slavery, against military aggression and against evil dictators and ideologies.

Today, we Americans have a representative government that promises and guarantees freedoms for assembly, speech, and religious practice because of the actions and sacrifices of the men and women buried in cemeteries in Arlington in Virginia, Normandy Beach in France, Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, and many other famous and forgotten places throughout the world.

Let us now remember our war dead for one minute.

In the future, let us not forget our war dead and what they have gained for us.

Ted Trakas