



Representative W. David Guice
North Carolina House of Representatives
District 113

Memorial Day Remarks

May 31, 2010

Greetings from Brevard!

Dear W. David,

On Sunday, May 30, 2010 I had the opportunity to deliver remarks marking Memorial Day 2010 at Gillespie Cemetery in Transylvania County. I have included below those remarks for your review.

"Blessed are the peacekeepers for they shall be called the children of God" says Matthew 5:9. We are gathered here today in this solemn place and in this solemn moment to remember those lives that have been lost in defense of our nation and indeed freedom around the world.

I want to extend my personal thanks and the thanks of my family to those who have served and those that are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is because of your sacrifice that we are able to sleep well each night in the land of the free and the home of the brave.



The roots of Memorial Day go back to the American Civil War. Originally called Decoration Day, a day was set aside to remember those Union soldiers who lost their lives during the Civil War. After World War I the day was expanded to include all those military men and women who have lost their lives in the service to our country.

The sacrifices of freedom are not only borne by those that directly serve but also by the family and friends of those serving. It is on this day that we also remember their sacrifice and say thank you to them as well. In 1864 President Abraham Lincoln sent a letter to Mrs. Lydia Bixby, a Massachusetts mother who lost five of her sons during the Civil War, in which he said "I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours, to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of Freedom."

From the first shots fired in the American Revolution to the battlefields of the Civil War to the trenches of World War I to the beaches of World War II to the fields of Korea to the jungles of Vietnam to the streets of Baghdad and the caves of Afghanistan - sacrifice has been the watchword of all American military personnel throughout our history. It is required of us, those that remain, to be committed to the work ahead. Sacrifice, must too, be our rally cry. We must be committed to

freedom here at home and around the world. Tyranny comes in all shapes and sizes. It is up to us, to all of us, to honor the memories of the fallen and be vigilant in our fight against tyranny. We each have a part to play in defending the security of liberty.

I once again humbly thank all who have served, who are serving and have sacrificed for our freedom. Today we remember you. Today we salute you. Today we give thanks. I would once again like to echo the thoughts of Abraham Lincoln and say that our words will be forgotten with time, but your actions will never be forgotten for you are now part of the ages. May God bless you, may God bless North Carolina and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Warmest personal regards,
David