

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Governor's Weekly Radio Message

Remembers our Fallen Heroes

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week Gov. Whitman discusses the importance of remembering those men and women who died to secure and defend our freedom. The Governor identifies several meaningful steps that New Jersey has taken to pay tribute to our war heroes. This year, a site in Atlantic City was dedicated to establish the New Jersey Korean War Memorial. Also, the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center will open soon on the grounds of the memorial in Holmdel. Gov. Whitman asks all New Jerseyans to take a few moments and remember the service and sacrifice of their fellow New Jerseyans on this Memorial Day.

Attached is the text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

Governor's Weekly Radio Address Remembering our Fallen Heroes May 22, 1998

One hundred thirty years ago this month, Army General John Logan signed a general order designating a day for decorating the graves of those who died in defense of the Union. Today, across America, Decoration Day is called Memorial Day. Yet the words General Logan composed in his order remain as compelling.

He wrote, "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. . Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of a free and undivided republic."

I'm proud to say that we in New Jersey have never forgotten the cost of freedom - or the men and women who died to secure and defend that freedom.

Earlier this year, we took another meaningful step in paying tribute to our war heroes. We dedicated a site in Atlantic City upon which we will establish the New Jersey Korean War Memorial.

Just as we did for those from our state who served their country with bravery and honor in Vietnam, we will honor the courageous New Jerseyans who battled for freedom in Korea.

In a few weeks, we hope to choose a design for the memorial. We will also work with the Korean War Memorial Commission to solicit the funds necessary for this memorial.

Our Korean veterans truly deserve this long-overdue tribute. By the same token, we owe it to our children to keep alive the memory of the Korean War - and of every war in which New Jersey men and women of the armed forces paid the sacrifice of freedom.

I'm also pleased that we will soon open the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center, on the grounds of the memorial in Holmdel. Once again, we will provide a means for future generations to understand and appreciate the service New Jersey patriots gave to our nation in time of war.

I invite you to keep the "memorial" in this Memorial Day. Take some time to remember the service and sacrifice of your fellow New Jerseyans.

Visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, or perhaps a veterans' park in your hometown. Attend a Memorial Day parade and applaud the vets who take part. Pay a call on a relative or friend who served our nation in war. Plan a visit to Arneytown, the largest state veterans' cemetery in the nation. Make a donation to the Poppy Days sales that help our disabled veterans.

Memorial Day is a special opportunity for New Jersey to show pride in our heroes. We owe it to them and to our children. Let's set an example for the nation.

As General Logan wrote in his order, "If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light

and warmth of life remain in us."