

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor's Weekly Radio Address Encourages New Jerseyans to Honor Veterans

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 the Governor encourages New Jerseyans to keep the memorial in Memorial Day, by remembering those who put themselves in harms way to defend our Country.

The Governor says it is also important to keep in mind those who are currently representing the United States in Kosovo.

Attached is a 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.

RADIO ADDRESS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Hello, this is Governor Christie Whitman.

Over one hundred and thirty years ago, a general order was signed designating a day for decorating the graves of those who died in defense of the Union. Today, across America, that Decoration Day is celebrated as Memorial Day.

Earlier this year, we in New Jersey took another meaningful step in paying tribute to our war heroes. We rededicated the recently renovated War Memorial building in Trenton to the memory of all our New Jersey veterans.

On the north facade of the Trenton War Memorial there is an inscription to the soldiers who lost their lives fighting for our nation.

It reads: "They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old: at the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember them."

These lines beautifully capture the true meaning of Memorial Day. It is a time to remember the sacrifice of those who gave so much in the cause of freedom.

I am 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 our nation.

We are working hard to complete a New Jersey Korean War Veterans Memorial in time for the 50th anniversary of that conflict next year. And our New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial stands as a lasting tribute to those who fought in that war.

I will continue to do all I can to honor our debt of gratitude to those who have served our country.

Memorial Day 1999 once again finds American troops in harm's way. As the conflict in Kosovo continues, it is especially important to take some time to reflect on the bravery and patriotism of our armed forces.

Do something special this year. Visit the War Memorial, or perhaps a veterans' park in your own hometown. Attend a Memorial Day parade. Call on a relative or friend who served our nation in war. Make a donation to the Poppy Days sales that help our disabled veterans.

Whatever your plans are this weekend, I invite each of you to keep the "memorial" in this Memorial Day and remember those who paid the price for our freedom.

Thank you, and have a happy and safe Memorial Day weekend.