

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY
AND VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE
AND HONORING THE MEMORY OF VETERANS GONE BEFORE US**

Whereas, It is Military Appreciation Month, and we honor all those who have worn the uniform in defense of the United States and thank them for their service; and

Whereas, Those who have worn the uniform understand that we enter this world with American freedom given to us, ... what happens afterward is our responsibility; and

Whereas, Unquestionably, Americas' veterans and families have sacrificed beyond belief to secure our way of life, our liberties, our rights, and those of others, both at home and around the world, and we offer our sincerest appreciation and gratitude to all who currently serve and those who have served our great nation;

Whereas, In just two weeks, we will celebrate Memorial Day with picnics and days at the beach, and it is fitting to understand the history and the true meaning of Memorial day; and

Whereas, Memorial Day, originally Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who died in our nation's service; and

Whereas, Official recognition came about due to the vision of a great statesman, warrior, and veteran leader, General John A. Logan, a Republican, who served in the Mexican-American War, practiced law with success, was elected county clerk, served twice in the State House of Representatives; was elected prosecuting attorney, and served several terms as a US Congressman and Senator; and

Whereas, During the Civil War, Logan fought at Bull Run as an unattached volunteer to a Michigan regiment, then returned to Washington, resigned his congressional seat, and entered the Union Army as Colonel of the 31st Illinois Volunteers, which he had organized; and

Whereas, He served in the Western Theater in the army of Ulysses S. Grant, a Republican, and the future 18th President of the United States; and

Whereas, On the 4th of July 1863, Gen. Grant honored the now Major General Logan, in command of the 3rd Division, 17th Corps, by inviting his division to lead the Union advance into Vicksburg, where Logan received the Medal of Honor for action in that campaign; and

Whereas, Logan was called the greatest General to enter the army from civilian life, and Logan's popularity in the north was second only to that of General Grant himself, and Northern newspapers clamored for news of Black Jack Logan; and

Whereas, Major General Logan returned to Illinois for the 1864 elections, then rejoined the army and commanded his 15th Corps in the Carolinas Campaign, and

Whereas, Following the war, Logan, the military giant, became a hero to all Union veterans, and threw his efforts into securing veteran's rights for the men who had served their country, and

Whereas, Logan was re-elected to the United States House of Representatives from 1867 to 1871, ... to the United States Senate from 1871 to 1877, ... then again from 1879 until his death in 1886; and

Whereas, After the War, General Logan became National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army who had served in the Civil War; and

Whereas, Logan said it was most fitting; that the ancients, especially the Greeks, had honored their dead, particularly their heroes, by chaplets of laurel and flowers, and that he intended to issue an order designating a day for decorating the grave of every soldier in the land, ... and if he could, he would make it a holiday; and.

Whereas, On 5 May 1868, in Washington D.C., General Logan issued General Orders No.11 to members of his veteran's organization, the GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Excerpts include:

“The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land.” And

“What can aid more to assure this result than cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes?”

“We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance.”

“All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders.”

“Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds.”

“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.”

“Let us, then, at the time appointed gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of spring-time; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor;

It is the purpose ... to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year...”

and

Whereas, On that day, May 30, 1868, flowers were placed on the graves of Union AND Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery; and

Whereas, In 1882, the name was changed to Memorial Day, and soldiers who had died in other wars were also honored; and

Whereas, In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday to be held on the last Monday in May; and

Whereas, More than one million Americans have given the last full measure of devotion while serving our nation, and

Whereas, We grieve for all of them, and those who most recently joined their ranks in the Global War on Terrorism - our friends, neighbors, relatives and acquaintances;

Therefore, be it resolved that the next time we hear *America the Beautiful*, each of us will pay particular attention to these words from verse 3:

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife.
 Who more than self their country loved
 And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
 Till all success be nobleness
 And every gain divine!

and

Therefore, be it further resolved that for all who have paid the ultimate sacrifice through our country's conflicts, we pledge to remember them, and hereby offer a moment of silence.

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA