



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Adams Offers Memorial Day Remarks in Tewksbury *Attended by Veterans, U.S. Senator Scott Brown, and local dignitaries*

For Immediate Release
Monday, May 30, 2011

TEWKSBURY—Today, State Representative Paul Adams honored our servicemen and women with remarks during the Town of Tewksbury's Memorial Day Ceremony, an annual event at which U.S. Senator Scott Brown also spoke.

His comments are included below in their entirety.

"Today, citizens everywhere are gathering to commemorate Memorial Day, this Great Day of Remembrance. For some, Memorial Day is the kick-off to summer, a tie to celebrate with backyard barbecues or family gatherings. But let us never forget why we have the freedom to do any of those things in the first place.

You are here because you recognize that this day serves both as a tribute to those who have fallen and an opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to the values they died defending.

They never sought public recognition, the honors of our society, or recompense for anything they did, even though that is what they unequivocally deserve, so we take this moment to pause and solemnly recognize their service and sacrifice.

I'd like to specifically mention on this Memorial Day, May 30, 2011, the 111 Massachusetts service members who, since September 11, 2001, paid the ultimate price during Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and other important missions. I humbly ask your acceptance of my own personal gratitude, and the gratitude of my colleagues here behind me, for their many sacrifices.

We can do our best to try to truly repay these men and women and their families, and even though we will always come up short, it is in that spirit of humility that I offer up what our state legislature has provided. I'm proud that our commonwealth has a strong and historic record as the most generous state when it comes to taking care of our veterans. The "Welcome Home Bill" provides veterans and their families with one of the most comprehensive benefits packages in the nation, including shelter for the homeless, education opportunities, and other support services.

It is a contribution on behalf of the people of our commonwealth to those who have given so much, even all, in the service of their nation and fellow citizens.

My heart is full of gratitude this morning. My grandfather Adams served as a Marine during the Korean War, from 1950-1953. My mother's father served in the Army in the early 1950s and was stationed on the front lines in the Fulda Gap in southern Germany and Czechoslovakia, one position from which it was anticipated the Soviets would attack Western Europe during the Cold War. Going farther back, my ancestors fought as Minutemen in the Revolutionary War, and even before that, my ancestors were determined to cross the Atlantic Ocean in 1620 to an unknown world in pursuit of religious freedom. I'm fortunate and grateful to have these examples as continual reminders of duty to God, family, and country.

This day of remembrance is one of the pillars of our society of which I am most grateful and proud. I believe one of the most important things we can do this day is to remember the selfless sacrifices of all those service members who have walked before us, and today walk with us. We all know them. They love their families. They love their freedom. They fight

for the principles and values under which our country was founded and thrives today. They're some of the best men and women we know. Most of all, they love this great nation with all their hearts, their might, and their minds.

Let us always remember our veterans and those who currently serve us by continually showing our gratitude. When you see service members in the airport, on the street, or in a store, thank them for their service. When you see an American flag that has toppled over or fallen out of place in a cemetery, take a moment to place it upright, thereby helping to preserve the remembrance of their service unto your own self, and for others.

We set aside this day to remember our fallen heroes specifically, but it is my sincere hope that we each continue to honor them quietly every day throughout our support of soldiers who are still with us.

Please, always do your part to remember, and I promise that I will, too.

Thank you."