Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

MEMORIAL DAY
May 30, 2016

WHEREAS, the fundamental rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness have been courageously protected by millions of Americans willing to give their lives so that others may be free; and

WHEREAS, on the 148th observance of Memorial Day – once known as Decoration Day – we ask that Americans pause to give thanks for the brave men and women who died to preserve our freedom; and

WHEREAS, more than 70,000 Americans from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have given the last full measure of devotion for this country since it first proclaimed itself an independent nation in 1776; and

WHEREAS, many of these patriots are interred with comrades in hallowed memorial grounds in America, Europe, and the Pacific. They lie in simple country plots, urban memorial parks, unmarked graves, and among friends and family; and

WHEREAS, on Memorial Day, and every day, we thank them for their sacrifice and acknowledge our eternal debt to them. We pray that the devotion to patriotism and citizenship they displayed through service to this country will never be forgotten. Through their deeds, we have learned to appreciate the freedoms that are the legacy of their sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, a new generation of men and women in uniform have faced, and continue to face, their own "great task remaining before us," on the city streets and desert sands of Iraq and in the mountains of Afghanistan. The proud contingent who today wears America's uniform is tied to all other veterans by the same ethic of service in the name of freedom; and

WHEREAS, today we gather to demonstrate our unity, remember our losses, and ask that all citizens of the commonwealth recognize our unwavering commitment to a future filled with opportunity, justice, and hope for all people.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 30, 2016, as MEMORIAL DAY, and I urge all Pennsylvanians to join with others across the United States at three o'clock this afternoon in a National Moment of Remembrance to demonstrate our gratitude as we reflect on those who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this second day of May in the Year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and fortieth.

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor