



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION
28000 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000

Memorial Day Message 2015

To the Troopers, and Families of the 1st Cavalry Division,

Memorial Day is an American tradition that unofficially marks the beginning of summer. It is generally received with the opening of pools, backyard barbeques, and the cherished memories of good times spent in the company of family and friends. More importantly, this holiday represents a time to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our country.

Over the last 14 years, our nation has been involved in combat operations across the world to prevent further attacks on our country. These operations have resulted in many men and women laying down their lives for their comrades in arms and their nation. I urge you to pause and reflect on the service and sacrifice of these American heroes and the thousands of Gold Star Families who carry the heavy burden of their loved ones' loss with them each and every day.

Although our armed forces have been deployed in harm's way for nearly a decade and a half, we should not forget those who have given their lives in our nation's previous conflicts. 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the 1st Cavalry Division's participation in the Vietnam War, and the 65th anniversary of the First Team's service in the Korean War. It is important that we honor and remember those who gave their lives during those conflicts and all of the great Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom since our nation's inception. These heroes paved the way for all of us to serve today in the finest military the world has known.

As we enjoy this long weekend, I ask everyone to celebrate responsibly, to reflect on those who have sacrificed their precious lives and futures for our great country. We can learn a great deal from their dedication and do our part ensure the memories of those who have given everything in service to our country are not forgotten on Memorial Day or any other day.


ANDREW L. BARTEKY
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major


MICHAEL A. BILLS
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding General