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TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

May 25, 2012

Dear fellow Texans:

As Texans begin their summer at poolside and backyard grills this Memorial Day, remember to put the “memorial” back in Memorial Day by pausing to honor the sacrifices that make our freedom possible. Words are not adequate enough to console those who have lost a loved one serving our nation, but we can pause as individuals, families and Texans to offer our thoughts and prayers. We not only remember the sacrifices of our Texas veterans, we remember all of our fallen heroes, those buried on foreign shores, across the United States, at sea, and those still missing. And as we share in that grief, we also honor those among us; those who still place Nation above self and give their all for all of us.

In the words of Harry S. Truman: “Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.”

We, at the Texas Veterans Commission, fully embrace the meaning of these words. As champions for veterans and their survivors, we serve as an advocate on the behalf of our veterans and their families in Texas. As a veteran, I am privileged to serve veterans in a state that prioritizes the care of its veterans and the service veterans provide to our nation.

Every day, thousands of men and women put themselves in harm’s way to preserve our way of life. Many return home wearing the scars of battle - some visible and many invisible to those around them. They will carry with them constant reminders of their experiences serving our country, yet they will continue to perform, continue to fulfill the mission.

It is because of these everyday heroes that we celebrate Memorial Day, commemorating the selflessness and sacrifice of those upon whose very lives rests the foundation of freedom. Memorial Day, one of our nation’s oldest and most significant holidays, recalls the duty and sacrifice of all who have set their personal aspirations aside for the preservation of our society.

In times such as these, it is important for every American to reflect on what it truly means to live in freedom. We owe all of our veterans, past and present, a debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they have made in the defense of liberty. Remember - to put “memorial” back in Memorial Day.

Sincerely,

THOMAS P. PALLADINO
Executive Director