

Message from Mayor Missey - July 2023

The following is an excerpt from the Mayor's Memorial Day speech on Monday, May 29, 2023:

Thank you all for coming out this morning to honor and remember those who sacrificed their own lives for all of us. Welcome to our veterans, here today to honor their brothers and sisters in arms. And, to accept on their behalf, the gratitude of our community and our country.

Each year I am honored and humbled to give this address. Who am I? I'm just a little girl who grew up here secure in the knowledge that I live in the greatest community in the greatest country on earth. It is my privilege to honor those who made it so.

Today is about more than just remembering our dead. We grieve all of our dead - we remember them in cemeteries and memorial services in countless ways. But a few gave their lives, selflessly, to create and safeguard an ideal: The United States of America.

Today is about honoring that ideal, and those few who gave their lives in her defense. The American Ideal.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

That's what they fought for. That's what they died for. For Democracy and Freedom. For Justice and Opportunity. And we owe it to them to uphold those ideals, to live our lives in support and example of those ideals. Not just in words, but in deeds. Those are the ideals upon which this country was founded. And those are the ideals for which our soldiers offered their lives. Our charge is to carry it forward - to do better!

How many times have you said the Pledge of Allegiance? "One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Those should not just be words. Those are actions! Not a single soldier ever went into battle thinking they were fighting for a country that was based on a dying ideal. Our country, our society, our way of life is a living, growing, ever-changing thing. They went, and they fought, and they gave their lives to this country so that we could continue to grow. To persevere and to bear the fruits of the gift their deaths ensured for all of us - freedom. Their self-sacrifice is a debt we can never fully repay, but for our efforts to uphold and protect that for which they died.

That is OUR duty. To honor our heroes. To honor their courage. To honor their sacrifice. To ensure that they did not die in vain.

Today we gather to remember together. Our challenge, our solemn duty, is to remember every day and to act in honor of their memory. Thank you all for being here today to reflect, to honor,

and to carry forward those American ideals. The United States of America, for all of her faults, she is still a symbol of freedom and a beacon of hope. And, she is still the greatest nation in the world.

Best wishes,
Mayor Missey Moorman Schumacher