

State or Local Officials Guidebook For the National Moment of Remembrance

Memorial Day, 2000

Contact: Carmella LaSpada
Events Coordinator
National Moment of Remembrance

Tel: (202) 395-7373

Fax: (202) 456-2008

Email: Carmella_A._LaSpada@who.eop.gov

NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE
May 29, 2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1) SUGGESTED PROCLAMATION
- 2) MEDIA ADVISORY
- 3) SUGGESTED MEMORANDUM TO STATE OR LOCAL EMPLOYEES
- 4) SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS FOR STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS

A SUGGESTED PROCLAMATION FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Some suggestions for the state or local official to issue an annual proclamation encouraging the citizens of his or her state or city to observe a "Moment of Remembrance" at 3:00 p.m. (local time) on Memorial Day to commemorate the acts and efforts of his state or city citizens who have died in service to their country.

MEMORIAL DAY MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Memorial Day has been officially celebrated in this country since May 1868 as a way of honoring and remembering the sacrifices of those brave servicemen and women who gave their lives in defense of their country; and

WHEREAS, in our hectic modern lifestyle, we often fail to take the time to remember those who fought and died for our country, and

WHEREAS, Memorial Day needs to be made relevant to both present and future generations of Americans and

WHEREAS, A nation-wide "*Moment of Remembrance*" should be observed on Memorial Day, by encouraging all citizens to pause and acknowledge the playing of "Taps" at 3:00 p.m. (local time)

WHEREAS, Persons at every public and recreation (state or city government and business) facility open on Memorial Day should be encouraged to participate in a "*Moment of Remembrance.*"

WHEREAS, Wherever they happen to be, all citizens of (**state or city**), whether alone or with others, should be encouraged to participate in a "*Moment of Remembrance.*"

NOW, THEREFORE, I, (name of state or local Official) do hereby proclaim Memorial Day, May 29, 2000 as a day for all to spend a "*Moment of Remembrance*", and I designate 3:00 p.m. (local time) as a time to simultaneously pause and unite in remembrance, or prayer, to honor those Americans who gave their lives in securing the blessings of our liberty.

I call upon the departments and agencies of (**state or city**) to participate in and promote this nationwide tribute.

This twenty-second day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Commonwealth (year).

(Name of State or Local Official)

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR THE “NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE”

Putting “MEMORIAL” back in MEMORIAL DAY

PURPOSE: To promote awareness of the “*National Moment of Remembrance*” and to encourage citizens of (state) to participate.

WHAT: (NAME OF STATE OR LOCAL OFFICIAL OR REP) has joined governors throughout the country in the “*National Moment of Remembrance*” campaign to have all Americans renew the meaning of Memorial Day. The “*National Moment of Remembrance*” effort, which asks Americans to pause simultaneously for one minute on Memorial Day at 3:00 p.m. (local time)

WHY: Unfortunately, Memorial Day is often seen as a day off rather than a day to connect with our nation, its history, core values and with those who, through the years, have given their lives so that the rest us might enjoy our freedoms. The nation is asked to join together to put “*memorial*” back in Memorial Day, promoting unity among Americans to reclaim this historic holiday as the noble and sacred event it was intended to be.

The Honorary Chairman of this national campaign is President Bill Clinton. Members of the distinguished Honorary Committee are former U.S. Presidents.

WHEN: May 29, 2000, Memorial Day, 3:00 p.m. (local time)

On Memorial Day, May 29, 2000, the “*National Moment of Remembrance*” will occur at 3:00 p.m. (local time) At this time, radio and television stations and participating sites across the country will play “Taps”. (3:00 p.m. was chosen because it is a time of day when most Americans are likely making the most of the freedoms we enjoy).

WHERE: Major sites include airports, bus stations, train terminals, shopping malls, ball parks, race tracks, national parks, prisons, homeless shelters and hospitals. Amtrak will blow its train whistles as a gesture of remembrance.

Drivers in vehicles are asked to turn on their headlights at this time.

THE NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE IS RECOGNIZED BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Date:

To: State and local employees

From: State or local official

Subject: Memorial Day “National Moment of Remembrance”

On Monday, May 29, 2000, Memorial Day, America honors those men and women who have given their lives in service to our country so that others could live free. This important day is being re-emphasized with a new Memorial Day tradition called the “*National Moment of Remembrance.*”

The President and Members of Congress have joined together in support of the “*National Moment of Remembrance,*” and encourage all Americans to participate in this very meaningful and nationally unifying act. The goal is that Americans everywhere will pause for one minute on Monday, May 29, at precisely 3:00 p.m. (local time) in silent reflection for those who have died as a result of service to our nation. During this one minute of tribute, the “*National Moment of Remembrance*” recommends that all Americans signify their unity in this gesture by doing one or more of the following:

1) Possible actions (lasting one minute) for individuals:

- a) Pause silently, placing the right hand over the heart
- b) If driving, turn on the vehicle’s headlights
- c) Merely stop what you are doing and pause to reflect

2) Possible actions for groups, gatherings, etc:

- a) Play “Taps” to accompany the “*Moment*”
- b) Sponsor the reading of names of deceased veterans from the local area

No matter where you are or what you are doing at 3:00 p.m. (local time) this Memorial Day, please participate in this “*National Moment of Remembrance.*”

Of course, a critical role for you is the ability to inform your staff and fellow workers about the “*National Moment of Remembrance.*” Let’s ensure that every American around the world knows they can join together on Memorial Day in 60 unifying seconds to remember the true meaning of national service and sacrifice.

Thank you for helping put “*memorial*” back into our nation’s Memorial Day.

Suggestions and Ideas for State and Local Officials for the “*National Moment of Remembrance.*”

Your support and participation is critical to the success of this effort.

MISSION OF THE “NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE.”

- 1) To educate all Americans regarding the meaning and value of the sacrifices made by those who gave their lives during service to our nation.
- 2) To encourage all Americans around the world to pause for one minute every Memorial Day (the last Monday of May) at 3:00 p.m. (local time) to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE “NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE”

- 1) Possible actions (lasting one minute) for individuals:
 - a) Pause silently, placing the right hand over the heart
 - b) If driving, turn on the vehicle’s headlights
 - c) Merely stop what you are doing and pause to reflect
- 2) Possible actions for groups, gatherings, etc:
 - a) Play “Taps” to accompany the “Moment”
 - b) Sponsor the reading of names of deceased veterans from the local area
 - c) Turn on a radio station at 3:00 p.m. (local time) to hear “Taps”

STATE AND LOCAL IDEAS

- 1) Get the **WORD** out. The President and Members of Congress support this campaign to create awareness and participation for the “*National Moment of Remembrance.*”
- 2) Utilize the media campaign kit for speeches, announcements, and articles in support of the “*National Moment of Remembrance.*”
- 3) Post announcements throughout the workplace using email, posters, etc. Send the name (or similar memorandum to your private sector vendors, contractors, partners, and your state or local private-public partnerships.
- 4) Additional information and points of contact will be listed on the website at:
www.whitehouse.gov/remembrance

Should you have any questions, please call 202-395-7373 or consult the website listed above.