



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Memorial Day was designated as a national holiday for the purpose of cherishing and solemnly celebrating our memories of those who sacrificed their lives on the battlefield in service to our country; and,

WHEREAS, Memorial Day was first observed in 1868 upon the order of Illinois' own John A. Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, who called on every American to raise the flag in honor of those lost and to "renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the Nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan;" and,

WHEREAS, Memorial Day today continues to serve as a reminder to every American that our freedom was bought and is preserved at a great cost, and that each of us owes a boundless debt of gratitude to those valorous men and women who have given their lives to defend our country on the battlefields, on the seas and in the skies around the world; and,

WHEREAS, Memorial Day 2010 offers everyone in the Land of Lincoln an opportunity to honor those brave men and women who have served, and continued to serve, as members of the United States Armed Forces; and,

WHEREAS, Memorial Day 2010 reminds us that we can acknowledge our debt to those who serve by flying the flag proudly, by paying our respects at the final resting places of those who fell in battle, and by supporting our men and women in uniform through the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund or other organizations dedicated to helping veterans and servicemembers;

THEREFORE I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim Monday, May 31, 2010, as MEMORIAL DAY in Illinois and ask everyone in Illinois to honor the enduring legacy of our national heroes who gave their lives in defense of our nation and the undying American principles of justice, freedom, and democracy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat Quinn
Governor, State of Illinois

###