



THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC



28 May 2007

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force:

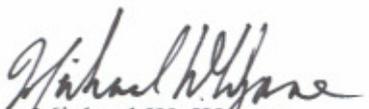
President Franklin Roosevelt said, "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy, forget in time that men have died to win them." With the hectic lives we lead today, it might be easy to think of Memorial Day as merely a three-day weekend. It's much more than that. It is a time for our Nation to reflect, remember and honor the Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who made the ultimate sacrifice defending our country, its interests, and its ideals. Memorial Day is an opportunity for Americans to pay homage to those who died serving the Nation and acknowledge the immense debt we owe them and the families and loved ones they left behind.

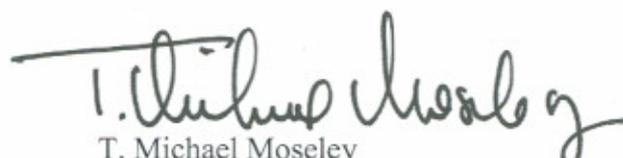
From our humble beginnings as a nation to our current position as a superpower, the men and women of this great country have never hesitated to answer the call to defend our Nation against its enemies, giving their all to preserve the freedoms we hold dear. But it wasn't until after our Civil War that we began formally recognizing our fallen with a national holiday. Since its inception in 1868, Memorial Day has become one of our Nation's most important holidays.

Today our Nation is at war, once again pitting our most precious resource – our sons and daughters – in a global fight against enemies whose fanatical agenda threatens our very way of life. Today, more than 27,000 Airmen are deployed around the world, waging the Global War on Terror and fulfilling vital roles in the joint, interdependent fight. Whether at home or abroad, our Airmen give the Air Force the unique ability to surveil the entire planet, to hold any target set at risk, in any weather or threat environment, anywhere in the world, to command and control our activities, and to assess our effects. Our selfless Airmen give our Nation the exceptional strategic warfighting capabilities of *Global Vigilance, Global Reach and Global Power*.

On this Memorial Weekend, take the time to remember our predecessors' sacrifices. Consider the legacy of valor and courage left to us by the Airmen of the Lafayette Escadrille during WW I and the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force during WW II. Remember the Airmen who fought and died in the skies over MiG Alley in Korea, and the Airmen who endured heavy losses flying F-105s over the jungles of Vietnam. And remember the Airmen we've lost most recently in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Then heed President Roosevelt's warning and never forget the brave men and women who died to earn us our privileged "American way of life." We will never forget them, and we'll never forget your efforts to keep this Nation free. As a grateful Nation pays tribute to our brothers and sisters in-arms who gave their last full measure for their country, we thank you for your service, hard work and dedication, and all you do every day to Fly, Fight, and Win for America.

  
Michael W. Wynne  
Secretary of the Air Force

  
T. Michael Moseley  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff