

Dear Friends,

This weekend, I join Floridians in remembering and paying tribute to the men and women who have paid the ultimate price to secure our freedom. We are able to enjoy a life of liberty because of the courage and selflessness of those in the armed forces, many of whom died to preserve our rights.

From the Revolutionary War to today's Global War on Terror, Americans have, time and again, defended democracy to uphold the values that make our country the world leader it is today. The United States has been a ray of light, giving hope to those held captive and oppressed around the globe, made possible by the patriotic spirit and valor of our brave servicemembers.

We honor our fallen heroes, including the 15 Florida guardsmen who have died in combat since 9/11, our servicemembers and veterans still with us today. We honor them by sharing their legacy and educating our children on our nation's rich history. We honor them by participating in the democratic process by exercising our right to vote. We honor them by recognizing families of the fallen who have given their lives protecting and defending freedom.

I encourage all Floridians to join Americans across our nation in participating in the Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time on Monday to reflect on why we commemorate Memorial Day and to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

May God bless our Florida Guard, servicemembers, veterans and their families.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Crist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.