



2009 Memorial Day Concert – Tempe

Gov. Jan Brewer's Remarks

May 25, 2009

I am truly honored to be a part of such a distinguished ceremony today in which we all take time out to celebrate the freedom we enjoy, demonstrate our appreciation for those who continue to protect those freedoms, and remember those fallen soldiers who have given the ultimate sacrifice in preserving the very freedom and liberty we Americans still enjoy.

On this Memorial Day, it is also a good time to reflect on the indelible fact that courage is not confined to the field of battle...courage is all too abundant in every home that has sent a son or daughter off to war.

Throughout America today, there are moms and dads,... brothers and sisters,... sons and daughters,... all who have paid a tremendous price...they gave the flesh of their flesh, the blood of their blood.

We owe each of these surviving family members our profound thanks – as they clearly have had to endure unthinkable grief...may God grant each of them His lasting peace... Such sacrificial love shall never be forgotten.

Current soldiers

As I mentioned, we also take time on this Memorial Day to show our appreciation to the brave men and women who continue to put their lives on the line to preserve and protect our freedoms.

Certainly, our nation owes a special thanks to the soldiers and families who've supported the extended deployment in Afghanistan and Iraq; indeed, we owe a special thanks to all who serve in the cause of freedom.

While the stress on our force is real, our all-volunteer force is strong and resilient enough to fight and win over terrorist threats to America, and the world.

Here at home, we need to also continue to support our troops and not become apathetic to the difficult job they are undertaking on our behalf.

I have long believed that sacrifice is the pinnacle of patriotism.

The sacrifice of our brave fighting men and women of our armed forces today, as well as the many veterans before them who served their country with distinction, all of these soldiers have helped liberate millions and made the world a safer place to raise our children. We are forever indebted to never forget such sacrifice. Because you servicemen and women are so brave, America remains strong.

So on this Memorial Day, lets remind everyone that we keep faith with our men and women in uniform around the world, those standing guard, guaranteeing and protecting liberty in Iraq, Afghanistan, North Africa and in over 130 foreign lands.

Their devotion to duty provides inspiration to freedom-loving people around the world. We honor them and pay tribute to the memory of generations of servicemen and women who have gone before them. The essence of their sacrifice resides in the spirit of freedom-loving people everywhere.

Certainly, the reverence we hold for our fallen should be equally shared with the living.

So tonight here in Tempe, as we enjoy the music and time with our families and friends, let us remember that our destiny as a free people is our choice.

Certainly, our own principles should be guided by those who gave their lives for our future freedoms and the acknowledgement of those men and women, our friends and family members who continue defending freedom.

May they inspire us and fill us with hope.

God Bless our Troops and their loved ones. God Bless our veterans, and God Bless the United States of America.