

July 2016

[REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS]



Rep. Hogan's 2016 Memorial Day Remarks

At a time when our country is divided on many issues, it is inspiring to see all of us come together, as we do every year, to share this day dedicated to remembering those who sacrificed their lives for our nation.

On May 27th I attended the Dedication of the Massachusetts Iraq & Afghanistan Fallen Heroes Memorial on the waterfront in Boston. This is our state's official memorial and is a permanent remembrance created to honor the sons and daughters of the Commonwealth who gave their lives since September 11, 2001 in the Global War on Terrorism: It is the first official memorial in the United States to do so.

The memorial stands 50 feet tall, with five sides, to represent each branch of the military and rises above a small reflecting pool. On one side of the pool, 219 names have been etched into three glass panels.

Those lost in combat or during their military service are listed in order of their deaths. More names will likely be added since American forces are still involved in conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria.

The event was solemn and there were many Gold Star families in attendance.

This memorial is there for us all to remember, to pay respect and to honor their memory.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives understands the sacrifice made by military personnel and their families and passed legislation this session that:

- Increased access to housing for disabled and elderly Veterans;
- Updated existing law so that "Veterans Status" is a clearly protected employment category;
- Extended eligibility for the "Public Service Scholarship" to all children of POWs;
- Extended property tax-exemptions to service-connected blind Veterans;
- And fully abated any property taxes due by a surviving spouse following the death or MIA status of a Soldier, Sailor or member of the National Guard.

Our state will always be willing and honored to invest in our Gold Star Families and in all Veterans and we will never forget why it is appropriate for us to do so.

And on Memorial Day, the day set aside to remember all who have made the ultimate sacrifice to democracy, let each of us in our own way commit to a town, a Commonwealth, and a country worthy of their sacrifice. They remain in our memory, and we remain forever in their debt.

God Bless those in harm's way; God Bless all our Veterans; God Bless the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and God Bless America.

- Rep. Hogan shared these remarks during Memorial Day ceremonies in Maynard and Stow

Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

- Office Hours will be by appointment only for July and August. If you would like to meet, or have any issues or concerns, please contact my office at (617) 722-2130 to schedule an appointment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Hogan" followed by a horizontal line.

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

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