

July 2020

## REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS



### Memorial Day 2020

*Following are remarks that State Representative Kate Hogan delivered on Memorial Day 2020 in a modified version of Stow's traditional Memorial Day ceremony.*

We meet here today, in a time of great challenge, to commemorate the men and women who gave their last, full measure of devotion to preserve, protect and defend the United States of America.

This year we did not walk in formation from Center School to gather, in this place, at this time, amidst our fallen heroes. We will not proceed from here to the Memorial Statue after these services. We will miss our annual reading of the Gettysburg Address by a student from Nashoba High School. A pandemic has forced cancellation of Memorial Day Ceremonies.

While we are not able to stand together as a town body at this time, those of us who are here today are here for you. Reading the list of our town's fallen is a solemn occasion that gives us time to reflect upon and honor each of the individuals who left us to serve our country and never came home. We honor their devotion. We honor their commitment. We honor their sacrifice. We remember.

President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address described the battlefield cemetery upon which he stood as hallowed grounds, holy and sacred. And, as we speak the names of our fallen at Brookside Cemetery, we are also standing on hallowed ground.

President Lincoln resolved that "the dead shall not have died in vain" and by that he meant that we, the living, are responsible for dedicating ourselves to achieving that for which they gave their lives.

Today, as we stand a nation riven by disagreement, may these battle fields and those whose blood and honor have made them sacred serve as sobering inspiration to create a more perfect union.

May they help guide us on a path to greater understanding. As fellow countrymen who can respect each other. As colleagues who can work across differences. As Americans who can and must meet 21st century challenges, together.

I would like to ask for a moment of silence for the veterans lost at the Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes due to COVID-19. We commit to ensuring that the loss of life endured there must never occur again.

This is also a time to offer our gratitude to all the members of our Armed Forces, including our own Massachusetts National Guard and our first responders for their dedication to duty and service in this time of national emergency.

God Bless and protect those in harm's way. God Bless our fallen, may they know eternal peace in the arms of their God. God Bless our Veterans. May God Bless this great Commonwealth and may God Bless the United States of America.

### **Contact Rep. Hogan:**

My (virtual) door is always open. If you need assistance or would like to contact me, please call me at (617) 722-2199 or email me at [Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov](mailto:Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov).

Kate Hogan, State Representative  
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