

July 2019

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS



Rep. Hogan's 2019 Memorial Day Remarks

To all our Veterans here today, a grateful Commonwealth thanks you for your service and your sacrifice. On this Memorial Day, I am thinking of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. As Andy Rooney said so well: "If you think the world is selfish and rotten, go to the cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach. See what one group of men did for another group on D-Day, June 6, 1944."

On June 6, 1944, allied forces invaded northern France by landing on the beaches of Normandy, code-named "Utah," "Omaha," "Gold," "Juno" and "Sword." This was the largest seaborne invasion in history and the beginning of the end of WWII. Nearly 2,500 Americans died on the beaches on D-Day

Then, now and forever, these young men remain the essence of all that is great about our country. It is their lives we grieve and their decency, courage, and bravery we honor today. This is what we remember and will never forget. We cannot separate the story of American freedom from the story of American sacrifice.

At 18, 19, and 20 years old these soldiers – still boys, really - arrived in places with far-away sounding names. They carried a gun and a knapsack and a profound sense of what was at stake – nothing less than freedom as we knew it. As we remember the 75th anniversary of D-Day and the invasion of Normandy, let us honor what is most remarkable about these stories: they are not just about our freedoms. They are about that defining character of America – fighting for freedom and liberty wherever it is threatened.

Today, across Europe, and Asia, and North Africa, individuals who do not know the names of our fathers, grandfathers or brothers – do know, and live, in freedom. These far-away places are where a small American flag placed before an austere white gravestone is the measure of what was sacrificed for their freedoms. At American military cemeteries across the globe, people pay tribute to these heroes from places with far-away sounding names. Places like Massachusetts.

Many of you have visited these American military cemeteries overseas or seen photographs. The stark tribute of thousands of white crosses in fields ringed by trees, at the edges of a city, and along the Atlantic Coast. These cemeteries are living memories of the profound human toll of this sacrifice – fighting for the universal ideal of freedom very far from home.

This 75th anniversary of D-Day, we can be sure that the residents in Sicily and Cambridge and Normandy will remember our fallen heroes. Let us join them today in remembering the valor and bravery with which our fallen fought for the freedoms of others.

We must appreciate that to be American today -- 75 years after our troops faced down fire at Normandy in one of the darkest periods of modern history -- is to know that freedom grows and is protected when it is shared.

The United States of America has always been willing to fight for our freedoms and the freedoms of people around the world. On this Memorial Day, let us commit to a town, a Commonwealth, and a country worthy of these heroes.

—Rep. Hogan shared these remarks during Memorial Day ceremonies in Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

- Office Hours will be by appointment during the months of July and August. Please contact my office at 617-722-2199 to schedule an appointment.

Kate Hogan

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Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

State House, Room 163, Boston, MA, 02133 / Phone: 617-722-2199/ Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov

District Office: Maynard Town Hall, 195 Main Street, Maynard, MA 01754/Phone: 978-897-1333