<u>Memorial Day 2020</u>

Thank you, Steve, and thanks to everyone who takes the time to view these observances virtually. We hope and pray that we can all be together again soon. Our great Country has a proud history of meeting national and international challenges, and defeating our enemies, in whatever form they may take.

Today we remember those who lost their lives in service to our Country. When we remember the fallen, when we say their names, they can seem less far away, if even for a moment. This past year we saw more brave service members with ties to Massachusetts give their lives so that others can live in freedom:

- We lost Master Sgt. Luis Deleon-Figueroa, a 31-year-old, decorated Massachusetts special forces soldier, who was killed in combat operations in Afghanistan
- And we lost 3 United States Marines who were assigned to the 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division of the Marine Corps Reserve, based nearby in Fort Devens, Massachusetts, when their convoy hit a roadside bomb near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Like thousands of Americans before them, these Service Members left the peaceful shores of the United States of America for battlefields in far-away places. They died protecting the freedoms they enjoyed here, and due to their efforts and sacrifice, we still get to enjoy every day. They would have loved that family BBQ today, that game of catch, that phone call from a distant friend. We can honor their sacrifice by doing those very same things, and by living a purposeful life, in peace and harmony with one another, always striving to make our Community, our Commonwealth and our Country a better place.

As President Warren Harding proclaimed during a speech at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery, 99 years ago:

"Our part is to atone for the losses of heroic dead by making a better Republic for the living."

Let us work together to do exactly that, and Let us always remember, so that we may never forget.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless our War Dead, our beautiful Town of Southborough, and the United States of America.