



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 4th STRYKER BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM
2nd INFANTRY DIVISION
CAMP Liberty, IRAQ
APO AE 09344

AFZH-SB-CO

31 May 2010

SUBJECT: Memorial Day Remembrance

1. Greetings Raiders! I would like to extend my warmest regards to you and your families this Memorial Day. I wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts with all of you on this day of remembrance and highlight to you the importance that this holiday has, especially for all of us. Memorial Day is a time for us to take a moment from our extraordinarily hectic lives and reflect back on those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country, our way of life, and the pursuit of freedom and democracy.
2. We, the members of the Raider Stryker Brigade Combat Team, are members of a brave society of Soldiers banded together for a common purpose. We have given of ourselves; sacrificing our time, sacrificing moments with our families back home, and in some cases sacrificing our lives. This day offers us an opportunity to reflect on the greater meaning behind our efforts, as this brigade's efforts—your efforts—have been instrumental in what will prove to be the successful culminating effort of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the war of seven years.
3. You have provided security to the Iraqi people in western Baghdad, and the Abu Ghraib, Taji and Tarmiyah Qad'as in times when they have needed it most. Through High Payoff Attacks carried out by the forces of Al-Qaida in Iraq, to the escalation and focused execution of the country's national elections, the Raider Brigade has stood strong with our Iraqi partners. Raiders continue to support the Iraqi people and the continued improvement of their lives: this comprehensive blanket of security that you have provided is important, but more important are your actions in support of our partners that have ensured their continued success.
4. Every joint patrol or Traffic Control Point operation that you have participated in; every class that you have taught; every Humanitarian Assistance drop that you have provided external security; every council meeting that you have sat through but not actively participated in; every one of these efforts has made strides toward improving the lives of the people that we have been sent here to help protect and who's lives we hope to help their government and security forces improve. No matter how seemingly small you feel that your part may have been in this effort, I assure you that each piece put together has collectively ensured that vast improvements continue to happen every day in our Operational Environment and that the members of the Raider Brigade past and present will be remembered as having made an immense contribution toward the successful achievement our country's strategic goals in Iraq.
5. So today, on Memorial Day, take a moment and reflect. Stop and think about those who have gone before you and given their lives in this and all of our nation's past wars. Remember them. They were once young, optimistic and Soldiers much like you. They were brave Soldiers who gave all, so that the people of our nation and the nations we support can enjoy freedom and peace that our enemies would otherwise deny. I am humbled by your efforts here and in support of Raider Team. Know that your monumental efforts march Iraq towards a new dawn in their history. Thank you for your service and happy Memorial Day--- Raiders to the Objective!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John Norris", is written above the typed name.

JOHN NORRIS
COL, IN
Commanding