

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 854

WHEREAS, For well over a century, Americans have set aside Memorial Day as a time to honor those members of the military forces who have given their lives in service to the United States; and

WHEREAS, This observance was introduced after the Civil War as a means of paying tribute to those who had died on both sides of the conflict; originally called Decoration Day for the practice of adorning the graves of soldiers with flowers once a year, the holiday came to be known as Memorial Day, a day to honor all of the country's fallen; though it was celebrated on May 30 for a number of decades, it has been observed on the final Monday in May since the early 1970s; and

WHEREAS, In communities across the nation, veterans and their fellow citizens gather in cemeteries and other public places to pay tribute to the armed forces personnel who died protecting our liberty; "Taps," the haunting bugle call customarily performed at military funerals and memorials since the Civil War, is played during these ceremonies, and in accordance with tradition, the United States flag is lowered to half staff early in the day before being raised again at noon; and

WHEREAS, The most well-known observance of Memorial Day occurs in Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where the remains of unidentified Americans from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War are interred; the president of the United States, accompanied by honor guards from all branches of the armed services, traditionally lays a wreath at the tomb, and a bugler offers a final salute by playing "Taps"; and

WHEREAS, Americans owe an immeasurable debt to those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in behalf of the peace and stability of our nation, and it is a privilege to join with citizens across the country in paying homage to the courage, commitment, and patriotism of its military personnel; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby recognize Memorial Day 2019 in solemn commemoration of those who have died in service to our nation.

Campbell

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2019.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate