

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

MAY 10 1976

MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE  
TO THE ARMED FORCES

On Memorial Day 1976, America pays tribute to the members of our Armed Forces who have given their lives to secure our country's independence and freedom. We recall their valor and their courage, and we honor them for their total commitment to our Nation.

This time of reflection, however, should also be a time of resolve. The freedom for which more than one million Americans have sacrificed their lives in battle can endure only as long as we cherish and defend it. By maintaining unquestioned strength and dedication in our national and international endeavors, America will preserve the freedom and peace which those whom we honor on Memorial Day valued more than life.

The defense of freedom is a sacred trust bequeathed to all Americans, especially Americans in uniform. As we pay homage to our defenders of the past, we also salute the vigilant men and women of today's Armed Forces who safeguard our freedom of the present and the future.

  
DONALD RUMSFELD

