



MOST EXCELLENT
DR. ELTON L. LEWIS, K.Y.C.H.
GRAND HIGH PRIEST

May 26, 2022

MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE

On this Memorial Day, as our nation honors its unbroken line of fallen heroes, I take this moment, on behalf of the Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Mason of Florida & U.S. Virgin Islands, Inc., Prince Hall Affiliated to honor the best of us.

Black Soldiers served and lost their lives in every major battle and in every war this country has ever fought. America's first all-Black unit was the 1st Rhode Island Regiment. From the Black Minutemen to the 54th to the Buffalo Soldiers to the 10th Calvary to the Harlem Hellfighters to the 78th Tank Battalion to the Tuskegee Airmen to the 761st Tank Battalion, our own have fought and laid down their lives for this country and for our freedoms since the birth of this very nation.

Over 1.5 million veterans of the United States Armed Forces currently reside in Florida. Many of them line our rosters and fill our ranks in our chapters throughout the Jurisdiction. In enduring respect and gratitude for the sacrifice of our service men and women, communities across the state in the coming days will participate in ceremonies, parades, and other recreational activities. It is a tradition that began as Decoration Day shortly after the Civil War. Family, friends and others placed flowers and other adornments upon the graves of those who died in battle. The observance was broadened following World War I to commemorate all of our fallen service members, and declared a national holiday by Congress in 1971, observed each year on the last Monday in May.

On this Memorial Day, we pay solemn tribute to the men and women who marched, flew and sailed in defense of our freedoms and way of life, never to see their loved ones again.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter to be affixed.

Most Ex. Dr. Elton L. Lewis, K.Y.C.H.
Grand High Priest of all Capitular Masonry

ATTEST,

Canary Williams

Rt. Ex. Canary Williams
Grand Secretary