
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8009

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senator Roach

Read first time 01/25/2001. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives
6 of the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Memorial Day is a day to honor all men and women who
9 have died in our nation's service, and to show respect for all
10 American veterans of wars and other military conflicts; and

11 WHEREAS, Memorial Day began in May of 1866 as Decoration Day, a
12 day to honor the Civil War dead, with a program of observance for
13 decorating the Civil War graves with flowers; and

14 WHEREAS, General John Logan designated the 30th day of May 1868
15 as the first nationwide observance of Decoration Day; and

16 WHEREAS, The Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of
17 Union veterans, advocated that the day be set aside as a legal
18 holiday, and some states did approve it as a legal holiday; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1971 Congress established Memorial Day as a legal
20 holiday to be held each year on the last Monday in May; and

1 WHEREAS, The holiday does not adhere to the traditional May
2 30th date but instead creates a convenient three-day weekend, thus
3 detracting our attention from ceremonies and other activities
4 associated with the traditional observance of Memorial Day; and

5 WHEREAS, American veterans have earned our respect and
6 gratitude for their courage, patriotism, and sacrifice. Their
7 service has ensured our freedom and prosperity, and they deserve
8 to have the Memorial Day holiday dedicated entirely to their
9 honor, rather than a holiday absorbed into a convenient three-day
10 weekend, where traditional observances are often missing;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
12 traditional day for observance of Memorial Day be restored to May
13 30th.

14 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
15 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the
16 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the
17 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of
18 Congress from the State of Washington.

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