

JOHN CORNYN
TEXAS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

May 27, 2019

Dear Fellow Texans:

On Memorial Day, we honor those servicemembers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of this great nation. We reflect on their selfless service and their unwavering patriotism: a stark reminder that freedom isn't free.

Today we remember brave Texans like U.S. Army Ranger Sergeant Cameron Meddock, from Spearman, Texas, who died this January while supporting NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan. SGT Meddock was on his second deployment in Afghanistan when he was shot, and he is survived by his wife, Stevie, and their child.

We also remember previous generations of airmen, sailors, marines, soldiers, and guardsmen who came before us – soldiers like Army Private First Class Herschel M. Riggs of Rio Grande City, Texas, and Army Master Sergeant Charlie J. Mares of Waelder, Texas. Both men had been recorded as missing in action during the Korean War, but thanks to advances in DNA and dental analyses, the remains of both men were identified and returned home to their families in Texas this year to receive proper burials.

SGT Meddock, PFC Riggs, MSG Mares, and too many other Texans gave their lives so that we could enjoy the liberties and the safety we do today. So whether you'll spend this day laying wreaths on gravestones, celebrating our freedoms with a parade, or bringing your family together for a barbecue, I hope you'll join me in taking a moment to reflect upon the courageous men and women who have given us the most precious gift: freedom.

May God Bless our fallen servicemembers and their families, and may He continue to Bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Cornyn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator