

Santa Fe, NM – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico's Third District released the following statement today honoring our nation's veterans and troops on Memorial Day, which will be celebrated on Monday, May 31.

“As we celebrate Memorial Day today, we show our respect and appreciation for the men and women who have served our nation with honor and distinction. We remember those who proudly wore our nation's uniform on the field of battle and those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms and values that make our country great.

“As we commemorate the brave service of our nation's heroes, we must also pay tribute to the families – husbands, wives, children, and parents – who shared their loved ones with their country. We must remember that when our servicemen and women are deployed, so too are their families, and it is our responsibility as a community to look out for them while their loved ones are in harm's way.

“Let us never forget the commitment and sacrifice of the men and women throughout our nation's long history who have fought in different wars, but under one flag for all that the stars and stripes represent. Their courage and valor have served as inspiration to a grateful nation. When their country needed them, they answered the call to come from every corner of our union to join as one in defense of freedom and liberty.

“Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said: ‘A man who won't die for something is not fit to live.’ The men and women we are here to remember today were willing to die for their country, and for that their memory will forever live on in our hearts.

“Finally, while Memorial Day is a time to reflect on the service of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice on the field of battle, our thoughts and prayers are with the servicemen and women who currently serve in Iraq, Afghanistan, and in locations across the globe. We keep them in our thoughts and we hope that they will safely return home soon.

“To all the veterans and current service members, thank you for the extraordinary service and sacrifices you have made and continue to make to defend our country.”

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