



## Memorial Day Message 2016

Memorial Day in the Pacific area of responsibility has special significance to everyone stationed in Japan. We have the privilege to serve near the hallowed grounds and waters where so many Americans fought and died during World War II to preserve our freedoms and way of life. We encourage all Americans to pause and reflect this weekend on the generations of patriots who gave their lives for their country. Memorial Day is about honoring the legacy of our fallen warriors – past and present.

We must never forget the sacrifices of our fallen heroes, ordinary people who displayed extraordinary valor. They serve as a constant reminder that the freedoms we all cherish are not free. Our way of life comes at a high price, something that families of the fallen understand in a much different way than most Americans. We ask you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers this weekend.

Memorial Day also marks the beginning of the of summer season, a period that historically includes our highest rates in accidental deaths. Enjoy the weekend with your family and friends, but do so in a safe and smart way that never puts our important Bilateral Mission at unnecessary risk.

Thank you for everything you do in the protection of our great Nation and maintaining a strong alliance with Japan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrence A. Greene".

TERRENCE A. GREENE  
Chief Master Sergeant, USAF  
Command Chief Master Sergeant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Dolan".

JOHN L. DOLAN  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Commander