



Hello Detroit!

Please join me in remembering the many men and women that gave the ultimate sacrifice to secure our freedom with a moment of silence on Memorial Day. This is the time to reach out to families of our soldiers and join them in honoring the immeasurable contributions that their loved ones gave to our country.

Here's a history fact: In April 1861, Michigan was one of the states that quickly answered the call for help when the Civil War broke out. When the 1st Michigan Infantry marched into Washington that May, our history tells us that Abraham Lincoln exclaimed, "Thank God for Michigan!"

In Michigan, Decoration Day, now known as Memorial Day was officially established as a national holiday in 1971. Memorial Day is really about patriotism through flying American flags at private homes and decorating grave sites. It is also a time when Americans began wearing red paper poppies to remember those who died in World War I, this was the flower covering the site of one of the most destructive battles of the war in Belgium and France.

Many know Detroit as the "Motor City," but Detroit is also known as "The Arsenal of Democracy." In 1940, Detroit produced 30 percent of the war material generated in the United States before the end of World War II. It was our Ford Motor Company in Willow Run that produced more than 8,600 B-24 bombers. The Willow Run Ford plant was the first big factory built in World War II that turned making from cars into making weapons. To reflect back on our history, Detroiters made one-third of our country's war materials. These were used to do battle against do battle against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. Those armaments allowed our loved ones to be protected while waging war. Detroit, in many instances, helped to change the character of World War II, and in turn, every Detroiters was touched. Detroiters are resilient and they dealt with the many changes in later years, both the good and the challenging. Through it all, Detroiters persevered and made the best of the sacrifice.

In closing, I am very honored to be the President of Detroit City Council and the Chair of our Military and Veterans Task Force. In 2015, I worked tirelessly in making sure that Detroit became a "Purple Heart City", one which is known for welcoming and appreciating our military veterans." I am committed to honoring our Military and Veterans and for remembering those that died in the fight so that we as Americans will have a better life.