



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A Message from the Governor:

In this day and age, it is known around the world that in the face of aggression, tyranny and despair, Americans have responded as allies, liberators and humanitarians. The Great War, World War One, was the first example of our nation's willingness to answer the clarion call of duty on an international scale.

As a country coming into the full might of our agricultural and industrial power, Americans had much to focus on at home when war broke out in Europe. However, when American lives were lost and threatened from unrelenting aggression and freedom continued to be compromised overseas, America joined the war on the side of the Allied Powers against the Central Powers in April 1917.

Across our country, Americans were drafted and volunteered to fight in WWI, and American forces were as diverse as the country for which they fought. Americans from varied backgrounds and of different socioeconomic statuses fought side by side. Though faced with many obstacles and prejudice, African Americans, Native Americans and immigrants served our nation during WWI with distinction and skill. Women played important roles as they served formally in the United States military for the first time as nurses, drivers, telephone operators and much more, while also sustaining the vital workforce of our nation. The men and women who served during WWI displayed awe-inspiring bravery and irrepressible strength, which led to the success of the Allied Powers and the beginnings of peace. While our victory was undeniable, so too was the cost paid in American lives lost during WWI.

Never should we forget to extend our deepest respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Patriots unsurpassed, they and their families will forever be revered and respected for all that they gave in answering their nation's call. For those who were wounded and for every American who served during WWI, we must continue to show reverence for their service and sacrifice.

Thus, on the 100th anniversary of the Great War, we observe the National Tolling of the Bells to honor those who served in World War One, commemorate the armistice that ended the war, and ensure each generation of Americans are educated about the catalysts and consequences of the world's first global war.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

