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# New Legislation Honors Missouri Military Veterans

MAY 29TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

New Legislation Honors Missouri Military Veterans

*Submitted by  
Beth Farrah, SMT Writer*

**Jefferson City, Missouri** - As citizens throughout the state gear up to celebrate the upcoming Memorial Day holiday, legislation passed by the Missouri Senate and delivered to the governor during the 2013 regular session honors veterans and provides services for those who have fought and continue to sacrifice in order to ensure freedoms shared and enjoyed by all in the Show-Me State.

Senate Bill 106, sponsored by Sen. Dan Brown, R-Rolla, allows certain military training courses to convert into academic credit, gives certain members of the Armed Forces the opportunity to keep their professional health-related licenses or certificates while on active duty, and lets military members apply their service toward qualifications to receive a professional license or certificate. The legislation also establishes the child custody and visitation rights of deploying military parents. In addition, it gives the authority to state buildings and state parks to display of the Honor and Remember flag, which recognizes and honors fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Senator Brown also sponsored legislation this session that ensures the remains of Missouri veterans are properly handled and honored. Senate Bill 186 allows funeral establishments and coroners that have unclaimed cremated remains of Armed Service members to release them, upon proper verification, to a veterans' service organization for burial at a state or national veterans' cemetery. Current law is unclear as to how these remains can be claimed. This legislation properly defines the procedure for release of

these remains so veterans' services can take care of interment.

A bill relating to military honors allows the Missouri State Treasurer to make specific information, other than Social Security numbers, available to the public regarding military medals in the office's possession that have been deemed abandoned property in order to help identify original medal recipients or their heirs or beneficiaries. House Bill 702, also handled by Sen. Brown in the Senate, also allows the Missouri State Treasurer to designate veterans' organizations or similar groups as custodians of military medals until the owners or the heirs/beneficiaries are located. These organizations would also be able to assist the treasurer's office in identifying the original owners of the military medals.

Another bill relating to military in the state — Senate Bill 117, sponsored by Sen. Will Kraus, R-Lee's Summit — gives those who receive an honorable or general discharge from the military Missouri resident status in order to pay in-state tuition at one of the Show-Me State's public higher education institutions. Senate Bill 118, also sponsored by Sen. Kraus, authorizes the creation of treatment courts for veterans. The legislation allows these courts to handle cases involving substance abuse or mental illness of current or former military personnel. Veterans' treatment courts could accept participants who meet certain criteria from other jurisdictions when there is not one of these specific treatment courts located where they are charged. These courts would also refer various substance abuse and mental health treatments to participants.

In addition, Sen. Kraus sponsored legislation this session that changes how uniformed military and overseas voters request, receive and send voter registration applications for absentee ballots. Senate Bill 116 would allow servicemen and women to go online and request an absentee ballot to cast their vote. The Missouri Secretary of State would be required to establish an electronic transmission system that would allow a covered voter — a uniformed service voter who is registered to vote in Missouri, has a voting residence in the state, and who satisfies Missouri's voter eligibility requirements, as well as overseas voters who are otherwise eligible to vote in Missouri — to apply and receive voter registration material and military-overseas ballots.

To read more about bills related to military and veterans in Missouri, as well as other legislation passed by the General Assembly and delivered to the governor, visit [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

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## A Tribute Letter By Ed Martin

MAY 29TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

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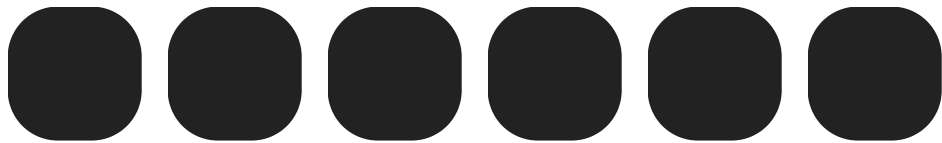
*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

[/images/Ed Martin Memorial Day.jpg](#)

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## Governor Orders Flags to Half-Staff on May 25th

MAY 23RD 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Governor Orders Flags to Half-Staff on May 25th

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

**Jefferson City, Missouri** – Gov. Jay Nixon has [ordered](#) that the U.S. and Missouri flags at state buildings in all 114 counties and the City of St. Louis be flown at half-staff on May 25 to honor the bravery and sacrifice of **Sergeant First Class Trenton L. Rhea**.

Sergeant First Class Rhea, age 33, of Kansas City, was a soldier in the United States Army serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He died on May 15 while serving his country in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

In addition, Gov. Nixon has ordered that the U.S. and Missouri flags at all state buildings in Clay County be flown at half-staff from May 26 – May 31.

“Sergeant First Class Rhea served our country with bravery and dedication as a soldier in the United States Army, and I ask all Missourians to remember his sacrifice when they see the lowered flags,” Gov. Nixon said. “Our thoughts and

prayers are with his family as they mourn.”

Sergeant First Class Rhea was assigned to the 603rd Military Police Company, 530th Military Police Battalion, 300th Military Police Brigade, 200th Military Police Command, U.S. Army Reserve, Belton, Missouri.

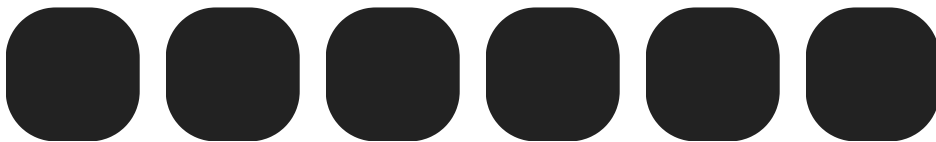
His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2 awards), Army Achievement Medal (2 awards), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device (3 awards), Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (3 awards), Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, NATO Medal, Combat and Special Skill Badge Basic Marksmanship Qualification Badge (Bar, Weapon: Rifle (Inscription: Rifle), Expert), Driver and Mechanic Badge (Bar, Driver-W), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award, and the Overseas Service Bar (3 awards).

Our thoughts and prayers to his family during this difficult time.

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# Senator Blunt Marks Anniversary of Joplin's Tornado

MAY 22ND 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Senator Blunt Marks Anniversary of Joplin's Tornado

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

**Washington D.C.** – U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (Mo.) [spoke](#) on the Senate floor today to send his prayers to the tornado victims in Moore, Okla. and to mark the anniversary of the devastating tornado that tore through Joplin, Missouri two years ago.

Blunt also praised the tremendous and ongoing rebuilding efforts in Joplin, including a \$20 million grant awarded to the City of Joplin to revitalize the 20th Street Corridor.

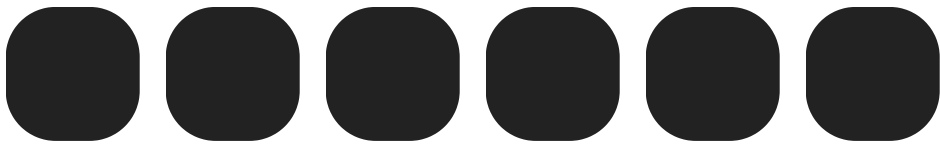
The grant, which was awarded today by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) through the FY2012 Disaster Relief Opportunity, supports construction of a new public library and a community resource center.

“Two years after the devastating Joplin tornado, we’ve witnessed remarkable rebuilding and recovery efforts across the region,” Blunt said. “I’m thankful Joplin received this grant, which will continue to revitalize the community and spur new economic development opportunities in the City’s 20th Street Corridor.”

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## Libla Speaks to Stoddard County Republican Club

MAY 22ND 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Libla Speaks to Stoddard County Republican Club

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

**Dexter, Missouri** - State Senator Doug Libla was the guest speaker on Monday evening at the Stoddard County Republican Club meeting.

He gave an awesome account of his State Senate session.

Doug Libla was born in 1952 and raised in Greenville, MO by his parents Clyde and Marglie Libla. He was educated in Greenville R2 Schools and graduated from Greenville High School in 1970. Doug moved to Poplar Bluff in 1971 and attended Three Rivers College from 1971-1973. Doug married Elaine Duncan in 1972 at Williamsville, MO. They have one daughter (Cassie), son-in-law (Daniel) and two grandsons (Noah and Josiah).

He began his business career in Poplar Bluff on June 9, 1971, as owner and operator of Doug's Sinclair & Tire, at the corner of North Main & Davis Street. Many people remember him pumping their gas, changing oil, fixing flat tires, plus washing and repairing cars for a living.

Doug and his brother, David, began a successful partnership in 1977 with a joint business venture that led to the creation of a number of successful companies. With hard work and strong values learned from their parents, they experienced success in manufacturing wood pallets, trucking, telecommunications, heavy construction, automotive products, industrial supplies, and commercial and industrial real estate.

The result of their life's work was their flagship company, Mid Continent Nail Corporation, located in the Poplar Bluff Industrial Park. Since 1987 their brand "Magnum Fasteners", has gained recognition throughout North America as the premier quality nail manufacturer serving the wooden pallet, reels, crating and construction industries.

Doug is strongly committed to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Southern Missouri and is involved in a number of community activities. He serves on the board of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), Three Rivers College Endowment Trust, Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center Board of Governors, the TAC committee of Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission and is a Past President/Charter Member/ and current Troop E Director of "THE MASTERS" (Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Society).

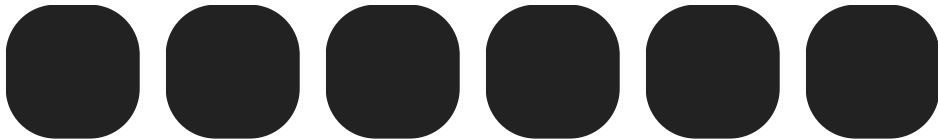
In addition to these activities, Doug and Elaine are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others by actively working with and supporting the following charities: The Baptist Children's Home, Boys and Girls Club of Poplar Bluff, Southeast Missouri FCA, Haven House and many others.

Doug and his wife Elaine are long time members of the First Baptist Church in Poplar Bluff, MO.

If you would like to know more about Stoddard County Republican Club join them on the third Monday of each month at the Hickory Log Restaurant. Meeting time starts at 6:30 p.m.



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