

Good morning.

I am honored to be here today to pay tribute to the memory of our veterans as we head into the Memorial Holiday weekend.

It is important to remember the real meaning of this holiday and to pay respects to the men and women who have fought to keep us free, fought and died for us, ensuring us the privileges that a democracy provides.

Many people think of this holiday only as the traditional beginning of summer, and a day off.

This weekend many people will forget that driving a car is not a right that is owed to anyone.

It's a privilege and should be treated as such.

Unfortunately, a lot of Minnesotans will abuse that privilege.

They'll speed.

They won't put on a seatbelt.

They'll pay no attention to the fact that their child car-seat isn't installed properly.

And they'll drive drunk.

The veterans who are memorialized behind me didn't die for these abuses.

They deserve better.

And so do the 8 people who will die on our roads over the course of Memorial Day weekend.

The goal is to get drunks off the roads.

And let me clue you in on something. I'm not saying where our state troopers and police will be. All I'm saying is they'll be where drunk drivers won't want them to be.

So be forewarned.

I urge every Minnesotan to be careful and safe this holiday weekend and every time they use the privilege of driving a car.

I ask this for the people on our roads and for the men and women who fought so hard for each of us to have such privileges at all.

Governor Jesse Ventura
Safe Driving Message
Ft. Snelling Cemetery
May 23, 2001



2

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thank you.