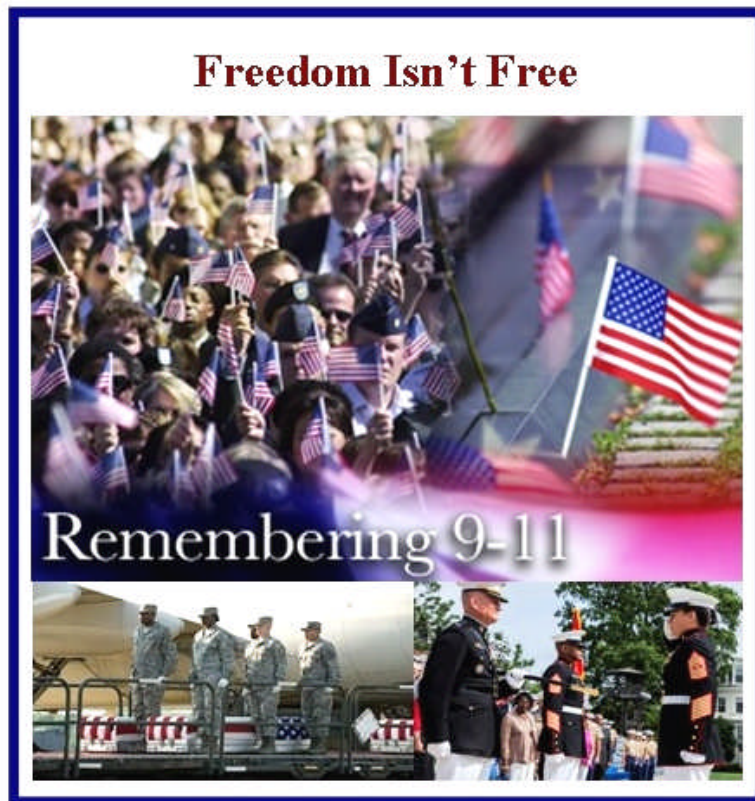


## Armed Forces



“Duty,” “Honor,” “Country” are words spoken by Army General Douglas MacArthur to cadets at the U.S. Military Academy in May 1962. These words resonate throughout the military community as they are the reasons why people serve to protect and defend the United States of America. For those who are serving and those who have served, they do and did so even when it results in the loss of limb or life. Freedom is not free. Without them, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness would be meaningless.

The Armed Forces is just one instrument of national power. Their mission is to protect America’s security interests and remain a global power. Human and capital costs to meet those objectives are complex, challenging and expensive. Domestic and foreign policy objectives are often linked to the military services, either for humanitarian or combat operations. Citizens’ knowledge of why they do what they do can assist them in determining which policies to support or oppose.

Members of the Congress are actively involved in military affairs because of their Constitutional responsibilities. From known or emerging threats to equipping the force, armed conflict tops the debates and frictions among members of congress and American citizens as well. Whether one is labeled a 'hawk' or a 'dove', the overarching reasons for contemplating armed conflict are national and homeland security issues. Our nation’s push-and-pull process is designed to ensure that justifications to act or not act have been fully vetted.