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Gale urges support for military on July 4th holiday

LINCOLN – Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale urged Nebraskans to take time on the July 4th holiday to reflect on the sacrifices of U.S. military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Our military personnel continue their heroic efforts to bring democracy to Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Gale, who serves as chief protocol officer for Nebraska.

“Let’s never forget the extreme dangers they face and their valiant service for our country,” he said. “Our thoughts and prayers are with them.”

Gale said Nebraskans are making significant contributions to the military efforts in the two countries. As an example, he noted that some 700 Nebraska Army National Guard soldiers, or 21 percent of the total force, are currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

“These brave Nebraskans embody the values we celebrate on the July 4th holiday,” he said.

To show support for U.S. military personnel and pride in America, Gale encouraged Nebraskans to fly the U.S. Flag from their homes on July 4. “The U.S. Flag is the national symbol of freedom, liberty and democracy that America stands for,” he said.

As a free public service, people may arrange with Gale’s office to have U.S. and Nebraska flags flown atop the west wing of the State Capitol throughout the year in recognition of individuals, accomplishments and special occasions.

Those interested must provide the flag, deliver it to the secretary of state's office and provide background information. Flags flown over the Capitol are accompanied by a keepsake certificate signed by Gale detailing the date and purpose of the flight.

To arrange for a flag to be flown over the Capitol, contact Katie Clark at (402) 471-4070.

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