

Bush marks Memorial Day in address

by UPI

WASHINGTON - U.S. President George Bush said Memorial Day marks an opportunity for the United States to rededicate itself to "freedom's cause."

Bush, in his Saturday radio address, related the story of Marine Sgt. David Christoff, who was killed in Iraq. Bush said Christoff joined the Marines on Sept. 12, 2001, telling the recruiter he was volunteering because, "I don't want my brother and sister to live in fear."

After he died, Christoff's parents found letters from him asking that they pray for his fellow Marines and all those serving overseas.

"On Memorial Day our nation honors Sergeant Christoff's final request," Bush said. "We pray for our men and woman serving in harm's way. We pray for their safe return. And we pray for their families and loved ones who also serve out country with their support and sacrifice."

Bush on Monday is to place a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery to honor all U.S. war dead.

"On Memorial Day, we rededicate ourselves to freedom's cause," the president said. "... With the valor and determination of our men and women in uniform, I am confident that we will succeed and leave a world that is safer and more peaceful for our children and grandchildren."

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