LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
65101

PETER D. KINDER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL ROOM 121
OFFICE PHONE: (573) 751-4727

September 2005

Dear Superintendents, Principals and History/Civics Teachers:

In recognition of *Military History Month* in the State of Missouri, we invite your school to participate in a project to help educate our youth about contributions of the military and veterans.

The project is called ***The Power of 11 Cents***. As the story goes, a young three-year old was going with his mother (an Army Reservist recently returned from Iraq) to see a live performance of "Dora the Explorer," a theatrical presentation. In his hand he carried 11 cents.

Before they left, his grandmother told him to put the money in his pocket, to which he replied, "No, Grandma, give it to your soldiers." If a three year old can show that level of patriotism, we know other children will want to show their patriotism as well. ***The Power of 11 Cents*** will provide your students with that opportunity!

On the 11th day of the 11th month (**Veterans Day**), the Missouri Veterans Commission and the Missouri National Guard would like to facilitate an assembly for your school with participation in this history/civics project. On that day we would invite all students in grades K-6 to donate 11 cents and all students in grades 7-12 to donate $1.11 to the Missouri Military Family Relief Fund. If we are successful, this project could raise over $368,000 for the Fund, which is a bipartisan effort signed into law in August 2005 by Lt. Governor Peter Kinder on behalf of Governor Blunt to assist Missouri National Guard and Reserve families who face unexpected financial constraint as a result of deployment to protect the freedoms that define the United States of America.

To kick off this day of patriotism we would be pleased to coordinate with the schools an opportunity for a veteran from any conflict (i.e., WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf or Operation Iraq and Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, or the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo) or someone with a military story to visit your school at a school assembly to personally thank those students for their participation in this noble project and to personalize the value of patriotism to the success of our country. Perhaps a demonstration by the National Guard of the periodic historical uniform display would be of interest to your students! Or a visit by *Operation Military Kids* (an MU Extension project)!

The Power of 11 Cents project will provide your students an opportunity to learn more about the history of our military, and they would have an opportunity to participate in a civics project that will assist these hard-pressed families who have sacrificed so much.

As an additional event during *Military History Month*, schools are invited to plan a field trip to the State Capitol in Jefferson City for **Students Day** on Tuesday, November 22, to view the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, "The Moving Wall." Contact information for that event is: studentvisit@jcveteranscouncil.org, Jill Snodgrass, Event Planner, 573-635-0979. For more information about the Moving Wall, please visit www.jcveteranscouncil.org.

We know there are young children and young adults all over our great state that have the desire to assist in any way in supporting our troops and their families. Please afford your students these opportunities.

Contact Pat Kerr, Missouri Veterans Ombudsman, Operation Outreach Program, Missouri Veterans Commission, PO Drawer 147, Jefferson City, MO 65109, 573-522-4220 (direct) 573-462-9531 (cell) for more information on how your schools can participate.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Kinder
Lieutenant Governor

D. Kent King
Commissioner of Education
Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

Enclosure: "***The Power of 11 Cents***"

cc: Governor Matt Blunt
Missouri National Guard, BG King Sidwell
Missouri Veterans Commission
Missouri Family Military Relief Fund