



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

September 7, 2010

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

On Veterans Day we come together as a Nation to pay tribute to the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. We pause from our daily routine to offer a humble message of gratitude to the 24 million Veterans living among us. We pray for the safety of our Servicemembers deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world. We also remember the lives of our comrades who are no longer with us.

For generations, Veterans have sacrificed their personal freedoms to protect and preserve the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans. For this, they are among our Nation's finest citizens. As we honor them on November 11 with ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and regional observances nationwide, let our words and deeds strengthen the bond between a Nation and her warriors.

It is a bond that is brokered in boot camp with the pledge that when the Servicemembers become Veterans they will receive the benefits they have earned through their honorable military service. As Secretary of Veterans Affairs, I am entrusted with honoring this bond through the delivery of quality health care, education benefits, home loans, pensions, compensation for injuries, dignified burials and other services on behalf of a grateful Nation. I am determined to continue to transform the Department of Veterans Affairs into a 21st century organization that delivers quality services and extensive benefits to Veterans of all eras. Veterans have given much to our Nation and they deserve the best in return.

On behalf of the Veterans Day National Committee and the Department, I offer my deepest gratitude to my fellow Veterans, their loved ones, families and survivors. Thank you for your service.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Eric K. Shinseki", is positioned above the printed name.

Eric K. Shinseki