

Celebrate and Remember

October 26, 2010

The holiday season is a time of joy, for celebration of family, a time to give thanks for all with which we are blessed. I wish you and your family the very best through this special time and into the new year.

As we know, there are many who will not have the opportunity to partake in the merriment of these holidays. Hundreds of thousands of America's finest are serving in some of the most dangerous places around the globe, sacrificing their time with family and friends to protect our freedom and way of life.

It is never easy to serve in desolate outposts throughout the world, but it is especially difficult during the holidays. Emails, letters and phone calls are no substitute for the joy of being with family in the warmth and love of a home.

There are others still who no longer serve in uniform but sacrifice daily due to injuries or illnesses sustained in our nation's defense. Many will spend this holiday season in a hospital, a nursing facility or at home but bedridden.

I ask that you set aside time to remember and honor those who are forsaking their holidays so others do not have to. The United States owes them all a debt of a gratitude that cannot be fully repaid.

Enjoy the holidays and our freedom to worship as we choose. But again, give thanks that we are stronger and safer because of those who are hunting for the enemy in the freezing mountains of Afghanistan and under the desert skies of Iraq.

As we ring in 2011, please keep in mind that a new Congress will soon begin work critically important to us all. We must all stand together to ensure that the change that comes will

benefit our veterans.

The new year will bring greater opportunity to fulfill our mission of building better lives for disabled veterans and their families.

While we have lately enjoyed great success legislatively, there is still a great deal of work that needs to be done to ensure every disabled veteran and family member receives the care and benefits earned through service and sacrifice. We must continue leading the way in shaping the change our nation is undergoing.

It is my sincere wish that you and your families have the most joyous holidays possible. I wish you all the blessings of the season. And I know you can be counted as we stand up for veterans in the new year.