



THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC



NOV 7 2014

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force:

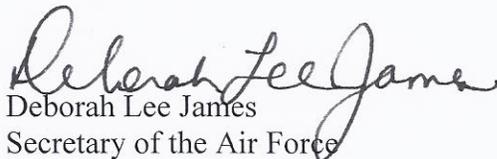
On Veterans Day, we seek to honor and express our deep gratitude to more than 22 million American veterans, including 4 million veterans of the United States Air Force.

Past or present, each veteran has a story. Some served in wartime, others in peacetime; many were volunteers, others were called; some served days and for others the profession of arms was their life's work. All were heroes, and all deserve our thanks.

The freedoms we enjoy each day were fought for and secured through the sacrifices of the men and women of our armed forces. We especially honor and remember those who lost their lives to help defend our Nation, and we give thanks to the families whose support made their loved ones' service possible. Collectively, our Nation owes our veterans and their families a debt that can never be fully repaid.

Following in the footsteps of previous generations, you—today's Airmen—continue to answer the Nation's call. In all of your missions, whether serving in overseas contingency operations, providing disaster relief at home and abroad, or protecting the skies above the United States, your commitment and professionalism reflects our veterans' proud legacy of devoted service. You too have earned our Nation's gratitude.

Our duty obliges us to ensure that each generation understands and appreciates the sacrifices that have been made, often at very heavy cost, by the men and women who have fought to preserve our freedom. On this Veterans Day, please take time to reflect on our veterans' contributions, and thank those in your family and your community who have served America so selflessly.


Deborah Lee James
Secretary of the Air Force


Mark A. Welsh III
General, USAF
Chief of Staff


James A. Cody
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force