

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2503

November 11, 2005

Dear Veterans:

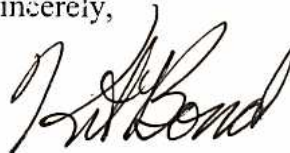
This year's Veterans' Day celebration provides another opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and highest regard for your selfless service to our nation. We would not enjoy the freedoms we have today were it not for your willingness to serve each of us, and our country, by committing to fight on our behalf against tyranny and terror in all its evil forms. This year Veterans Day has a new meaning for me as my son, a U.S. Marine, serves in Iraq. Not a day goes by that I do not think of him and how proud I am of his decision to serve.

Americans have been honoring veterans since 1938, when Congress made November 11th a legal holiday as "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" Originally Armistice Day honored our veterans of World War I but in the aftermath of World War II Congress amended the 1938 Act to honor American veterans of all wars.

Earlier this year I sponsored a resolution extending this recognition of our veterans. Senate Resolution 155 designates the entire week of November 6, 2005, as "National Veterans Awareness Week." This special week will emphasize the need to develop educational programs about the many contributions of veterans to our country.

As we approach Veterans' Day and the week long celebration dedicated to commemorate the service of veterans it is my hope that Americans will take the opportunity to say thank you for all you have done to secure the freedoms we hold so dear. You put service above self and country above all. May God bless you for your service to our great nation and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond