



VETERANS' DAY 2005

This Veterans' Day we honor those men and women who have defended our Nation in the Armed Forces.

Today is an opportunity for Americans to recognize the tremendous accomplishments and proud heritage of all who have worn the uniform of the United States military. In our short history, tens of millions of Americans have served in uniform—and many have made the ultimate sacrifice in order to preserve the freedoms enjoyed by the people of the United States. Veterans have served with distinction to protect the founding ideals of this Nation and to extend those same ideals to those oppressed by tyranny.

In the ongoing War on Terrorism, you have carried forth that same legacy of selfless devotion to duty. American Service men and women advance the cause of liberty every day while standing guard against those who would threaten it. America is rightfully proud of her Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Merchant Marines.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff join me in thanking all veterans and their families for the sacrifices you have made in defending freedom and ensuring the continued security of the Nation.

PETER PACE
General, United States Marine Corps
Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff