

Dear service man, service woman, or veteran

It's easy to take for granted the freedoms we enjoy everyday. We go to school, see our friends, make plans for the future without having to think about the sacrifices made by those who protect our nation. Freedom is the ability to live our lives, pursue our dreams, and simply be ourselves. For me, it means to be able to walk down streets without fear, to say what I believe, and to have a say in my own future. The fact that I can do these things is a direct result of the choices you made.

Your decision to serve the selfless act that most of us will never fully understand. You chose to put on a uniform and, in doing so, committed leaving your home, your family, and your life as you knew to protect people you've never met. The rigors of training, the time spent far from loved ones, and the potential for danger are all things you face with courage. You did this so that I, and every other American, can live in a country that's safe and free. Your strength and determination are truly inspiring.

I want you to know that your services are deeply appreciated. It's not just a gesture of respect; it's a feeling of profound gratitude. I am grateful for your courage and for the example you set for all of us. You are a hero, and I hope you feel the respect and appreciation of a grateful nation, not just on a holiday, but every day.

I want you to feel seen honored, not just for what you did, but for the person you are

Our dedication and sacrifice have not been forgotten. Thank you for your service, your bravery, and for protecting the freedom that allows me to live my life fullest.

With heartfelt thanks

(Julius C.)