

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

November 11, 2021

Greetings,

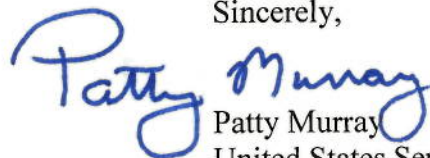
Today, as the country pauses to honor and remember our nation's veterans, we join together with immense gratitude for those who have stepped forward to preserve our freedoms and renew our commitment to care for them when they return home. The brave men and women who have served in our military have often placed themselves in harm's way, sacrificing their own needs in defense of our nation. On behalf of a grateful nation—to every veteran and the next generation of veterans—please accept our sincere appreciation for your dedication and service.

As the daughter of a World War II veteran, I have seen firsthand the sacrifices that our servicemembers and their families have made, as well as the challenges they have encountered long after their service has ended. Over the past two years, unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented significant obstacles for our veterans, including difficulty with their VA benefits claims, accessing their military records, delays in health care, exacerbating mental health concerns, and heightened economic insecurities.

Today, I join you in honoring our veterans and their sacrifice and pledge to continue advocating and working for solutions to help better support and care for our veterans, their families, and all of our servicemembers. When these courageous warriors signed up to serve our country, we made a promise to take care of them—a promise that includes ensuring access to their hard-earned benefits such as health care, housing assistance, education, and employment opportunities, and all other VA services to feel fully integrated and supported in their communities. Our country's heroes have gone to every length to keep their end of the bargain, and we must keep ours. Their selfless work makes a lasting impact on our nation and the world, which often comes at profound personal cost to our soldiers and military families — sacrifices that must be recognized and acknowledged.

I'm proud to be a voice in the U.S. Senate for the 600,000 veterans living in Washington state, as well as the servicemembers and veterans across our country. I will continue to do all I can to improve the quality of life for our nation's veterans, including supporting their transition from military to civilian life, holding VA accountable for providing high-quality care to our veterans, and ensuring veterans and their families have the support they need to live whole, healthy, and independent lives. This Veterans Day, please accept my heartfelt gratitude to all of our veterans, servicemembers, and their families, and thanks to all of you who have gathered today to honor these heroes.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

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