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November 11, 2023

Dear Friends:

While I cannot join you in person this Veterans Day, I appreciate the opportunity to share a few words with you.

This Veterans Day, we commemorate two significant anniversaries: 2023 marks seventy years since the end of the Korean War and fifty years since the end of the Vietnam War. More than 60,000 Oregonians served in Korea, with roughly twice as many, 120,000, serving in Vietnam. From experienced members of the Oregon Air National Guard to recent high school graduates, family and friends left our state to answer a call thousands of miles from where they called home.

Although separated by two decades, Korean War and Vietnam War servicemembers returned home to a country struggling with its own internal divides over race, civil liberties and more. In the face of continued unrest, servicemembers from Oregon went to work in their communities and continued their mission toward a greater good. Among other things, they came home to serve in prominent leadership roles in local government, support their fellow veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and became authors, advocates, and parents. Our nation weathered those turbulent times thanks in no small part to their sense of service.

Today we recognize and honor all of our veterans who have dedicated themselves to serving our country in countless ways, and we are indebted to their service. While America continues to grapple with many challenging issues today, we draw inspiration from those who came before us and led by example.

Representing Oregon's veterans, servicemembers, and their families remains one of my highest honors, and I will continue my efforts in the Senate to champion their needs. I join you in celebrating and honoring our veterans today, and everyday.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

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