



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE FLIGHT TEST CENTER (AFMC)  
EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE CALIFORNIA

24 May 2010

AFFTC/CC  
1 South Rosamond Blvd  
Edwards AFB CA 93524-1000

Dear Supporters of Antelope Valley Veterans

It is with a high degree of pride and humility that I write you on this, another occasion of your parade to honor America's veterans. Pride, in that your efforts to recognize our veterans' stems from the same community that we are a homogenous part of, the Antelope Valley. Humility, in that the pathways forged by the men and women who have given so much of themselves in the defense of freedom sets an ever higher standard of sacrifice which we, in today's profession of arms, are called by duty to attain.

It is efforts such as yours, and those like you, all across our great land that makes Veterans' Day so much more than just another holiday on a calendar. It is a resounding claxon conveying gratitude of millions to those men and women who have given so much of themselves to make our great nation what it is today. A bulwark of freedom which stands as a model for all lands to emulate.

Whether in the earliest days of our founding, to the current trials in Iraq and Afghanistan, from places like Gettysburg, Belleau Wood, Normandy, Iwo Jima, Pork Chop Hill, Pleiku or the Mekong Delta to the seemingly never ending waiting game of the Cold War, it has been the nations veterans who have forged an example of excellence that has become the foundation of a very nation a people united to the cause of freedom. And it is through actions such as sponsoring parades and salutes to these veterans, that you bring their struggles to life for young and old. It is through such acts that you convey the resounding message of pride, gratitude and honor that is a sustaining motive to those who served in the past and yet serve today.

I can assure you that today's Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines stand as ready as ever to forge ahead to spread the ray of freedom across all lands and defend those ideals that we all hold so dear. You offer proof positive that no matter how arduous the task, or prolonged the struggle, that our endeavor shall never fade from the heart of a proud and grateful nation.

We wish you success and, may God Bless the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Eichhorn".

DAVID J. EICHORN  
Major General, USAF  
Commander