

Colleagues and Fellow Veterans,

Last week I was at a ceremony where the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, and the Joint Chiefs signed a letter that will go to all transitioning service members, urging them to continue serving the nation as civilians in their communities and in their new jobs. The 32-Star letter recognizes the great potential of the post-9/11 generation, even after they take off the uniform. With a nod to previous generations of veterans, the letter challenges today's transitioning service members to follow the example of older veterans in continuing to serve the nation and to help guide our country's destiny.

The letter is a great reminder that today's veterans just need an opportunity to become leaders in civilian life.

“We trust that you will accept this challenge and join ranks with the business leaders, volunteers, and public servants in your communities. You have made your mark in uniform and represent the strength of our Nation,” the letter read. “We know you will do the same as veterans, setting the example for the next generation of veterans to follow ... It has been our greatest privilege to serve with you, and we look forward with pride to what your future holds. We know it will be extraordinary.”

The following link is a copy of the letter;

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/letters/Call%20to%20Continued%20Service%20Letter.pdf>

This link is a good article about this initiative;

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=128101&source=GovDelivery>

V/R

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VA Core Values: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence (“I CARE”)

Please Remember:

- If you would like to review prior messages sent through this listserv, click http://benefits.va.gov/vow/economic_opportunity.htm.
- If you would like to research, find, access, and, in time, manage your VA benefits and personal information please visit and/or register at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>.

- If you looking for a job or an employer committed to hiring Veterans, please register on the Veterans Employment Center (VEC) at: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/jobs>
- If you are seeking employment in the federal government, particularly the VA, our VA for Vets high-tech tools and resources can help. Visit online at <http://vaforvets.va.gov/> or call 1-855-824-8387.

If you would like to contact us about your VA education benefits:

You can send us a secure email that will usually be answered within 48 hours. You can also search for answers to frequently asked questions and register to be notified of any updates to the information. This contact method is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can also be utilized worldwide. Click here to enter the "Ask A Question" site or here to review our frequently asked questions.

You can call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551). This line only accepts calls from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM central time Monday – Friday.