

2011 letter to 52 Cold War veterans from President George H.W. Bush



GEORGE BUSH

June 2011

Barbara and I send greetings and respectful best wishes to all who are participating in the PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN 2011 Honor Our Military Patriotic Boat Parade.

Today it is said that we have no heroes. Not so! We do have heroes, and every American who has worn the uniform of America's Armed Forces – men and women of clear purpose who put service ahead of self – are heroes in the truest sense of the word. They deserve to be recognized and remembered, and all Americans owe them a debt of gratitude.

In my heart is a special pride in having served in the United States Navy, and closer to my heart are memories of comrades who never came home. I join you in paying special tribute to our brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. They and their families deserve our lasting gratitude.

This Navy man and former Commander-in-Chief salutes each veteran in attendance for this special occasion and thanks you for your service to our country.

Sincerely and with respect,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. H. W. Bush".