



THE DIRECTOR
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

7 July 2012

To My Fellow Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan:

I was pleased to hear that the citizens of Monticello are honoring your service to our country with such a fitting display of patriotism in our nation's Heartland. From the crushing heat of the Iraqi desert to the numbing cold of the Hindu Kush, you displayed valor, creativity, initiative, and resolve in carrying out our Nation's missions over the past decade. You were diplomats as well as warriors, problem-solvers as well as combat specialists, patriots who faithfully answered your country's call. You worked closely with our Iraqi and Afghan partners to help enable peaceful, prosperous futures for those countries, and you fought hard to beat back the tide of terrorism that had inflicted such grievous destruction on our own shores.

Having accomplished so much -- and sacrificed so much -- you have earned the admiration and gratitude of your fellow citizens. Indeed, you are members of what deservedly is recognized as the New Greatest Generation, men and women who have responded with courage and purpose to the great challenges of your day, just as earlier generations of Americans did in theirs. And you have done so with the support of those here at home -- loved ones, neighbors, and fellow citizens alike.

So today is your day. Along with the citizens of Monticello, I salute you for all that you have done for our great Nation. Indeed, I will always feel privileged to have served with you and your fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen in the campaigns of the last decade.

May God bless you and your families and our great country.

With admiration and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David H. Petraeus".

David H. Petraeus
General, U.S. Army (Retired)