



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Michael R. Pence
Governor

July 4, 2015

Dear Friends,

I was pleased to learn that the 'Proud to be an American, Honor our Military Patriotic Boat Parade and Celebration in the Park' is marking its eleventh installment of what is now a tradition in the community of Monticello. I can think of no better way to celebrate Independence Day and those who served to protect our way of life.

Simply put, the United States remains a free country due to the invaluable service and sacrifice of members of our Armed Forces, both past and present. As a nation, we can never repay the debt of gratitude owed to those veterans and their families who risked life and limb to answer to call of in our defense. Rather, we commemorate their service in events like this, or, more simply, with a handshake and the words, "Thank you for your service."

Like so many of you, I've come to understand that days like today are not only a time to honor the men and women who have worn the uniform of our nation, but they are also a day to offer our gratitude for the families who stood behind them. For those who have lived it, you know it is not only the veteran who must bear the long deployment and the dangers of combat. So let us remember the spouse, parents, siblings and children who must wait and pray while their loved one goes off to war. The true cost of liberty demands that we defend our freedom from those that would do us harm. And so long as our brave men and women continue to answer the call of duty, I am confident that the United States will continue to stand as a beacon of freedom around the world.

I want to extend my thanks to all the organizers who have made this event possible. Your efforts to celebrate American Independence and the heroes that defend it each and every day is noticed well beyond Monticello.

Happy Fourth of July!

Michael R. Pence
Governor of Indiana