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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *dg.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Date October 29, 1974

TO: The President

FROM: Paul A. Miltich

FYI X ACTION

OTHER :

BRF

Mr. President, the attached is being sent to editors of veterans publications , largest weekly circulations; standard mailing to Cabinet members, Public Affairs Officers of departments & agencies & senior White House staff.

Central Files

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 30, 1974

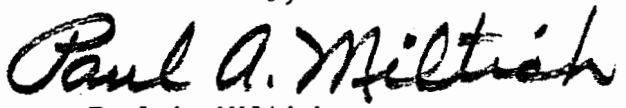
Dear Sir:

President Ford on October 28 paid eloquent tribute to the Nation's veterans. We are bringing that tribute to your attention in the attached paper.

In the event you would like to have a copy of the President's address, we are also mailing you the full text of his speech.

We feel you will find this material both informative and useful.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Miltich
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Affairs

Enclosures (2)

"GALLANT MEN AND WOMEN"

President Ford on October 28 paid tribute to the Nation's veterans as "gallant men and women (who) have answered the call...whenever our freedom has been threatened."

While saluting all of America's veterans, Mr. Ford gave special attention to veterans of the Vietnam War. He said of them:

"They served in spite of the most difficult psychological pressures. They served at a time when many of their peers and their elders were denouncing service to one's country as immoral. They served while some avoided service. They served without the full moral support that this nation has usually given its fighting forces."

The President emphasized that America owes a huge debt to our Vietnam veterans and must "serve them in peace...as they served us in war."

This means, the President said, that Vietnam veterans must share in the fruits of the American system. We must see to it, he said, that our Vietnam veterans are not forgotten.

Pointing to the plight of the unemployed young veteran, Mr. Ford said he has ordered that the Federal Government hire at least 70,000 Vietnam Era veterans by next July 1. Progress already is being made in providing jobs for vets, the President said. He noted that unemployment among veterans has diminished since its high point in 1971, and gave much of the credit to the National Alliance of Businessmen (NAB). Mr. Ford said the NAB hopes to provide 200,000 jobs for veterans during the next year.

The President also promised improved VA hospital care for the Nation's veterans. He said VA medicine is top-flight for the most part now but that some problems exist. He said he has given VA Administrator Richard Roudebush the assignment of solving these problems.

President Ford then turned to the challenge of keeping the peace. Quoting George Washington, he said: "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."

Citing the dire results of isolationism, Mr. Ford said of Washington's declaration, "More than once in our history, we have forgotten that warning and, each time, we have paid a heavy toll in human suffering."

The President applauded the efforts of America's veterans to keep this country strong and said that is the way to build a permanent peace.

He declared: "Let this Veterans Day strengthen our resolve to always walk the extra mile for peace, but always to walk it strong and unafraid -- for without a mighty America no peace can long survive."

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