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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Veterans Day, 1974

Americans are intensely proud of those who have worn the uniforms of our armed forces. We can never repay our debt to these brave fellow citizens. But we can each year acknowledge their contribution to our national strength and reinforce our resolve to stand by them as they have stood by us.

On this occasion I want to reaffirm the intention of my Administration to make the lives of our nation's veterans more rewarding, to make their golden years more satisfying and to offer those who are in our veterans hospitals the best possible health care. As our veterans protected our freedom and way of life, so too must we see to it that they participate fully in the benefits of that freedom and way of life.

As we express our gratitude to our veterans, let us also remember their colleagues who are still missing in action. I pledge that I will never abandon the task of resolving their status. We pray for them -- as we ask God's blessings on all those whom this day honors.

Gerald R. Ford

