

**The original documents are located in Box 40, “10/18/76 - Remarks at Veterans Day Memorial Tree Planting Ceremony in Honor of Medal of Honor Recipients” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

TAPING FOR VETERANS DAY MEDAL OF HONOR

MEMORIAL PLANTINGS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1976

VETERANS DAY 1976 IS ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL  
TO ALL AMERICANS. IT COMES NEAR THE CLOSE OF OUR  
BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION --  
AND AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR THIRD CENTURY AS A FREE  
NATION. IT IS ALL THE MORE MEANINGFUL BECAUSE THIS  
VETERANS DAY FINDS AMERICA AT PEACE.

NO AMERICANS HAVE CONTRIBUTED MORE TO THE  
WINNING AND PRESERVATION OF OUR FREEDOM AND PEACE THAN  
OUR NATION'S VETERANS.

AMONG THESE PATRIOTS, NONE ARE MORE DESERVING  
OF OUR SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION THAN THOSE AMERICANS,  
LIVING AND DEAD, WHO EARNED OUR HIGHEST MILITARY AWARD --  
THE MEDAL OF HONOR.

ON BEHALF OF ALL AMERICANS, I AM PROUD TO JOIN YOU  
BY MEANS OF THIS MESSAGE AS YOU PLANT AND DEDICATE A TREE  
THAT WILL BE A LIVING, GROWING MEMORIAL TO AMERICA'S MEDAL  
OF HONOR RECIPIENTS.

THE PLAQUE TO BE PLACED AT THE FOOT OF THIS TREE WILL  
REMIND ALL WHO SEE IT IN THE YEARS AHEAD OF THOSE HEROES WHO  
SERVED WITH GALLANTRY ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

IT SHOULD REMIND US TODAY THAT THESE AMERICANS --  
AND THOUSANDS OF OTHERS LIKE THEM -- HELPED MAKE OUR  
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION POSSIBLE.

TODAY'S SPECIAL VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY WILL PLANT  
MORE THAN A MONUMENT TO PAST HEROISM. THIS TREE WILL BE  
A SYMBOL OF OUR COMMITMENT TO GIVE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE  
TO AMERICA'S VETERANS -- NOT JUST ON VETERAN'S DAY BUT EVERY DAY.

THROUGH THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, A GRATEFUL  
NATION WILL CONTINUE THE WORK OF HEALING AND HELPING OUR  
VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AND  
AS A CITIZEN, I SALUTE THEM.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

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