



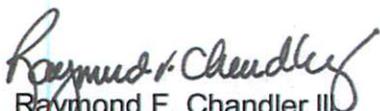
## WARRIOR CARE MONTH – OPEN LETTER TO OUR ARMY COMMUNITIES

Americans traditionally reflect on the service of our Nation's Veterans during the month of November and give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy because of their courage and sacrifice. Fittingly, the Military Departments have designated November "*Warrior Care Month*" – a time to reaffirm our country's commitment to care for wounded, ill and injured service members and their Families. The theme for this year's joint observance is "Healing the Mind, Body and Spirit: Unlocking Unlimited Potential."

Since the beginning of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, our Army has transformed the way we care for our men and women in uniform. Through research and analysis, we have minimized injuries by improving equipment used in combat operations, training our combat medics as Emergency Medical Technicians, and expanding Soldier training in self-aid, buddy-aid and combat life-saving techniques. As a result, today, more than 90 percent of Soldiers injured in battle survive. Moreover, from point-of-injury on the battlefield until the time that Soldiers come home, the Army is there to assist in their healing. Some remain on active duty, while others leave military service; regardless, the Nation takes care of them--because they are and will always be part of the Army Family.

Since 2007, the Warrior Care and Transition Program has provided care and support to almost 38,000 wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers and their Families, and returned approximately 19,000 of these Soldiers to the fight, while ensuring those who leave military service are effectively transitioned to the Department of Veterans Affairs and are well prepared to lead productive lives. Today this program, overseen by the Warrior Transition Command, is caring for nearly 10,000 Soldiers and Families, as well as 8,000 Army Veterans through the Army Wounded Warrior Program.

Providing the highest quality medical care and support to these Soldiers is a sacred obligation that reinforces the bonds of trust between our Soldiers and their Families, our Army and the Nation. It's something we do every day, but it is not something we do alone. We are grateful to the people across this Nation who open their hearts and give their time to volunteer to help all our Soldiers and their Families. You have our unrelenting gratitude. *Warrior Care Month* is a time for us to tell this story. This November let us pay tribute to those who have sacrificed so much in the defense of our Nation and celebrate the resilience and strength our wounded, ill and injured Soldiers demonstrate every day.

  
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