



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

1636 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20301-1636

MAY 17 2023

To the Soldiers, Airmen, and Families of the National Guard

On Memorial Day, we remember the men and women who fought and died for our Nation. We remember their courage, their strength, and their dedication. We remember their actions, their achievements, and their words. We remember the lives cut short, the families left behind, and the futures that would never be. As we remember those who laid down their lives, we must also remember why.

We pledge to support and defend our Constitution. We pledge allegiance to our flag. But our Nation is not built on words and fabric, but the actions of a courageous few—men and women who defended our ideals, protected our lands and our people, and established order around the world. These accomplishments were neither granted nor given; our service members fought and died for them. Their sacrifice was in the service of something bigger: our Nation, our people, and our future.

When we remember what the fallen have given us, when we remember why they served, when we remember what they gave up so we could be free, merely saying “thank you” has a thin and hollow ring. Instead, we must honor their lives and their memory, telling their stories and keeping their legacies alive. But most of all, we must continue to live and serve with honor, so we may be a Nation worthy of their sacrifice.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Tony L. Whitehead, consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

Tony L. Whitehead
SEA, U.S. Air Force
National Guard Bureau

A blue ink signature of Daniel R. Hokanson, written in a cursive style.

Daniel R. Hokanson
General, U.S. Army
Chief, National Guard Bureau