

Major General (Ret) Paul Mock

November 27, 2013

To: Our Military Members, Veterans and Families

Subject: Ten Year Anniversary Yellow Ribbon America – A Christmas and Hanukah Holiday Letter

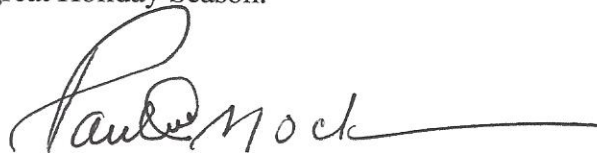
As members of the US Armed Forces, civilian employees, Veterans and families, the Christmas Holiday Season is a very special time. This is the time of year that we share memories, our thoughts and values. It is the time of year we express thanks at being a member of the most professional of all institutions – the US military. It is the time of year that we are grateful for being citizens of the greatest Nation, the United States of America.

Our military heritage stands tall. From the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War 1, World War 2, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War through our current conflicts in the War on Terror, our military members have proven themselves to be the best the world has to offer. Military members have proven their allegiance to the Nation. Many have borne the scars of war, both physically and emotionally. Our military families have suffered and endured as well. Many have survived long periods of absence and separation; many are still experiencing this today.

More than 2.5 million members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 400,000 have deployed three or more times. Many don't realize that more than 877,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve have deployed.

For ten years, Yellow Ribbon America has been there to support our military members and families, especially during the Holiday Season. Making Christmas and the Holidays a joyous occasion is what they are all about. Please continue to support Yellow Ribbon America and all they do.

I wish each of you Merry Christmas and have a great Holiday Season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul E. Mock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul E. Mock

Major General (Retired), USA