

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 29, 2011

I send greetings to all those observing Silver Star Service Banner Day.

As a grateful Nation, we pay tribute to America's sons and daughters who have dedicated their lives to the defense of our freedoms. Often contending with perilous conditions and long absences from home, generations of service members have performed with patriotism and distinction.

When our men and women in uniform return from deployment, it is our moral obligation and great honor to serve them as well as they have served us. Our debt of gratitude extends to their families and friends, who embody the same qualities of bravery, sacrifice, and duty exhibited by their loved ones. On Silver Star Service Banner Day, we recommit to caring for those who return to us wounded or ill, and we remain humbled by the heroic contributions they have made to our Nation.

May God bless and protect our troops, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned at the bottom center of the page.