



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 3, 1991

I am pleased to learn that the residents of the City of Brotherly Love have opened their hearts to honor our Persian Gulf veterans during Philadelphia's Independence Day celebration.

On Independence Day we not only celebrate the legacy of freedom and democracy that was secured for us by our forefathers but also honor the brave men and women who have put themselves in harm's way to protect and to preserve our way of life. All of the parades and the fireworks that we enjoy on this occasion reflect our profound respect and appreciation for those who have served in defense of freedom.

The American service men and women who participated in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm demonstrated the extraordinary dedication and skill that are hallmarks of our Nation's military personnel. Their success has reminded us of the debt that we owe to veterans of earlier conflicts, and I am particularly delighted that our Vietnam veterans are now receiving the thanks that they so deserve. Their time has come.

This special event reflects our Nation's determination to ensure that, from now on, its veterans receive due recognition and thanks. I commend everyone who helped to make it possible.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George Bush".