



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON

MAR 4 2003

Mr. Wesley Porotus  
The Center for Military and Private Sector Initiatives  
152 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

Dear Mr. Porotus:

Thank you for your efforts to celebrate the accomplishments of America's veterans and to provide opportunities for veterans to continue to serve America after their military service.

When the team that created Veterans Across America™ first briefed me on this project and described the plan to create a national celebration honoring America's veterans, I was struck by the sheer epic scope of this effort. Our military men and women are true American heroes who have made great sacrifices throughout our history. These patriots have defended our freedoms and preserved our democracy, often in the face of overwhelming perils.

I wholeheartedly support the mission of the Veterans Across America movement which is to celebrate the service and achievements of veterans. I pledge my personal support to help make this movement a success. I support the goals of the Veterans Across America mission which is to dramatize the workforce challenges facing veterans, to enhance the entrepreneurial opportunities of veterans, and to raise awareness among the American people about the value of veterans continuing their service to the Nation.

I would like to thank The Center for Military and Private Sector Initiatives, the non-profit organization that created Veterans Across America, for its efforts in organizing it and for its devotion to the cause of veterans. The Center, led by you and General Jimmy Ross, USA (Ret.), has been a champion of the cause of veterans since its inception.

The ultimate goal of Veterans Across America is to establish a permanent facility which, after the celebration and events are completed, will continue to help past, current, and future generations of veterans find meaningful employment and gain access to capital for the fulfillment of entrepreneurial dreams. I fully support this effort to enable veterans to live a better life and continue to serve their country.

Sincerely yours,

*[Signature]*  
Anthony J. Principi

*Wes,  
This is a very worthy effort and I look forward to working with you to honor the men and women who have served our nation.*

*[Signature]*