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**Executive Office of The President
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Staff Name:

Document Date: **May 15, 2013**

Correspondent: **MS SUE ERDMAN**

Subject/Description: **THANK YOU FOR WRITING AND FOR YOUR SERVICE AND
SACRIFICE.**

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May 15, 2013

Ms. Sue Erdman

P6/b(6)

Dear Sue:

Thank you for writing, and for your service and sacrifice. Your kind words reflect the hope and resolve of millions of Americans who are engaged in civic life and helping to move our country forward.

I know how painful it must be to think of the terrible attacks of September 11, and I can only imagine the grief felt by those who lost a loved one on that dark day. My Administration is dedicated to ensuring the safety of the American people, bringing those responsible for these heinous crimes to justice, and supporting the families of the fallen. Shortly after taking office, I directed the Central Intelligence Agency to make the capture or killing of Osama bin Laden, al-Qa'ida's leader, a top priority. Thanks to the incredible skill and courage of our service members, we achieved this mission on May 1, 2011, bringing to justice a terrorist responsible for the murder of thousands of men, women, and children in the United States and around the world. Bin Laden's death does not mark the end of our efforts against al-Qa'ida, and we will remain vigilant at home and abroad as we continue working to disrupt and dismantle this terrorist network.

In the ten years that have followed the September 11 attacks, a generation has come of age bearing the burden of war. The American people have persevered through challenging times, celebrated great progress, and together, we have shown that the values that define us are stronger than ever. As we continue to move forward, Michelle joins me in honoring the men and women who were taken from us too soon, and all the heroes who stepped forward in response to the worst kind of depravity. Their bravery inspired our Nation to stand together, and it continues to drive us as we seek to build a better, more secure world.

After years of grueling recession, we have cleared away the rubble of crisis. Our businesses have created over six million new jobs. Our housing market is healing and our stock market is rebounding. Consumers, patients, and homeowners enjoy stronger protections than ever before. We buy more American cars than we have in 5

years, and less foreign oil than we have in 20. And after a decade of grinding war, our brave men and women in uniform are coming home.

Today, we must match our achievements with a commitment to address the challenges that remain. It is our task as a Nation to reignite the true engine of America's economic growth: a rising, thriving middle class. It is our task to build ladders of opportunity into the middle class and to restore the basic bargain at the heart of the American dream—the idea that you can make it if you try, no matter where you are from, what you look like, or who you love.

In the days ahead, my Administration will work to make the United States a magnet for new jobs and manufacturing, to combat climate change while driving economic growth, and to reduce our deficit in a balanced way while keeping our promises to our seniors. We must pass comprehensive immigration reform, and we must take commonsense steps to reduce gun violence and get weapons of war off our streets. Government cannot solve every problem, but if we—as members of one American family—accept our obligations to one another and embrace the belief that our destiny is shared, I am confident that our country's best days lie ahead.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to share your thoughts with me. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,
POTUS AP

BO/EO/FR/AW/clh

Response Sue Erdman; Veteran Open; Support; 9/11 First Responders and Others

BARACK OBAMA (A)

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MAY 20 2013

CS9/11
Sue Erdman

P6/b(6)

February 13, 2013

President Barack Obama

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

P6/b(6)

My name is Sue Erdman and I currently live in Nescopeck, Pennsylvania. I am a year old mother of three children as well as a Veteran of the United States Marine Corps. I take great pride in our country, the United States of America, and care deeply in how it is run. I am happy

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to write to you In 2008, I felt our country needed change. In 2012, I was 90% satisfied with your accomplishments during your first term; I decided to give you more time to increase that percentage. There are numerous actions you carried out that I supported, along with one I strongly didn't, and in this letter I will write about the ones that are of the most importance to me.

One of those actions during your first 4 years as President I greatly approved of was pulling the U.S. troops out of Iraq, thus ending Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was beyond time for our men and women to stop fighting in the war and to come home; I believe ending the war was the right thing to do. To coincide with termination of the war in Iraq, you have begun to reduce

- Veteran ✓
- support ✓
- 9/11 ✓
- LGBT ✓
- immigration ✓

Letter to President Obama

U.S. military forces in Afghanistan as well. I believe the time is well overdue for Afghan officials to control their country and for the United States to not be a part of it any longer.

Another event during your first term as President concerning the Middle East I approve of occurred in May 2011. You ordered the Special Forces raid of a compound in Pakistan, which resulted in the killing of Osama bin Laden. If I could high five you for that decision, I would. What happened to our country on September 11, 2001 was atrocious; I lost several friends that day. To know that bin Laden, the inhumane being who was the leader of the 9/11 attacks, has paid for what he did to our country, brings me peace.

Peace was also given to thousands of gay and lesbian U.S. Military members in 2010 when you signed the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010." I approve of this policy; I feel that it was unfair for gay/lesbian service members to not have the freedom to be open about their sexual orientation, especially in the country they were putting their lives at risk to defend. Whether a person is gay or straight shouldn't matter when it comes to serving in the United States Armed Forces; I am glad you made it acceptable for them to express who they truly are.

Regarding the LGBT community again, I am proud you support gay marriage as well as gay rights. And, in 2009, you passed into law the "Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act," which expands the United States federal hate-crime law to include crimes committed because of the victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. No violent act is justified, nonetheless one committed because a person is transgender or disabled. I am relieved you increased the groups covered under this law as it helps protect ALL people of the United States.

Also in 2009, you signed the "Omnibus Public Lands Management Act" which expanded wilderness and watershed protection. My family and I are avid outdoorsmen and with this act, thousands of miles of recreational as well as historic trails were created, more than 1,000 miles of rivers were protected, and more than 2 million acres of land were designated as wilderness. Again, President Obama, I am highly satisfied with the signing of this bill.

One policy you enacted that I do not agree with is "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals," which allows illegal immigrants to stay in the United States as long as they immigrated before their 16th birthday, that they are enrolled in school or hold a job, and are not violent criminals. I think it is wrong to allow illegal immigrants to not be deported back to their country of origin, regardless of what age they came here or what their conduct in the United States is like. I believe anyone who wishes to live in the United States and become a citizen follow the correct procedure to do so.

Overall President Obama, I am pleased with what you have done for the United States and am content with my decision to vote for you in both elections. I look forward to witnessing what else you can and will do for us!

Sincerely,

Sue Erdman