

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 1, 2016

I am pleased to join in marking the 75th anniversary of the United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO).

Since our earliest days, America has looked to the unrelenting, the optimistic, and the brave to strengthen our Nation during times of trial and triumph. Recognizing that our fates are bound together, these proud patriots—whether they are service members who defend us on the front lines or civilians who safeguard our highest ideals at home—give of themselves unconditionally in service to the country they love. Big-hearted and eager to do good, they tread quietly. Yet throughout history, their impact has been great.

Connecting our citizenry to our military at home and abroad, the USO's dedication to those who risk their lives to protect our country embodies the spirit of service for which our Nation stands. Today, more than 30,000 volunteers and millions of active supporters carry this legacy forward at USO centers across the globe, connecting members of our Armed Forces back to family, home and country—the very things they have sworn to defend and protect.

Over the course of 75 years, the USO has inspired countless people to honor and support those whose service and sacrifice advance freedom's cause. Every day around the world, people answer this call to action through ordinary and powerful acts of kindness—such as being there for a military family when a loved one is deployed, extending a hand of friendship to a service member in a time of need, or helping a returning hero transition back to civilian life. The work of the USO reminds us that we are all part of one big American family, and as you continue to support our men and women in uniform, please know how grateful I am for your dedicated service.

May God bless our service members, our veterans, and the families who serve right alongside them, and may God bless the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", with a large, sweeping initial "B" and a stylized "O".