

Recently in Washington, we were offered a poignant reminder of the extraordinary acts of bravery and selflessness that are second nature to those serving in our military. At a special White House ceremony, Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta of Hiawatha, Iowa, received the Medal of Honor.

With this honor, the highest awarded to members of the Armed Forces, Staff Sergeant Giunta became the first living Medal of Honor recipient since the Vietnam War. His actions in Afghanistan in October 2007 - rushing into a wall of enemy fire to aid a fallen comrade and later successfully retrieving another from the capture of two insurgents - warranted high praise from President Obama. He commended the 25 year-old's "unwavering courage, decisive leadership, and selflessness," and called the young man "as humble as he is heroic."

Sergeant Giunta told reporters that the unsung heroes of this war are those who "will never come back and return a handshake or give a hug or see their family again, and we have to take time to remember them." It is appropriate at this time of national Thanksgiving to remember those who sacrifice for us like Staff Sergeant Giunta and his colleagues. Their everyday work is borne of service and commitment to the well-being of all Americans.

As we honor their efforts on our behalf, there is a special organized effort to express thanks. Again this year, the American Red Cross and Pitney Bowes Inc. are sponsoring the "Holiday Mail for Heroes" program, which gathers Christmas and holiday cards from people across America to deliver to U.S. military members.

If you wish to learn more and participate, review the program guidelines below (for more detailed information, visit <http://www.redcross.org/holidaymail> ).

**Holiday Mail for Heroes**  
**PO Box 5456**  
**Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456**

To ensure your card will reach a service member, you should follow these guidelines:

## Remember Sacrifice of our Military Heroes this Holiday Season

November 30, 2010

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- All cards must be postmarked no later than Wednesday, December 10, 2010
- If sending more than one card, mail all the cards together in one large shipping envelope.

Cards sent in this manner do not need individual envelopes or postage

- All cards should be signed
- Use generic salutations such as "Dear Service Member, Family, or Veteran"
- Do not include personal information, like email or home addresses
- Do not send letters
- Do not include inserts of any kind, including photos, glitter, confetti, gift cards or calling cards. Any items inserted into cards will be removed during the reviewing process

Thousands of American military service members will spend this holiday season in foreign countries, away from family and friends and the comfort and joy of their homes. By participating in this program, you can help bring the holidays a little closer to home for our military personnel. It may seem like a small gesture, but your message this holiday season offers a reminder to our soldiers of the great respect we have for their work and the love and support they have from Americans back home.

