

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

November 11, 2003

Dear Students of Billings Middle School:

I wish I could be there in person today to congratulate you on your efforts to help our troops at Fort Stewart, Georgia. I am impressed by your concern for our men and women in uniform and by your level of commitment to making their lives more comfortable as they return home from service overseas.

Many of you may have parents or grandparents who served in our Armed Forces. My own father was a disabled World War II veteran, so I know how much it means to our troops to have support as they return home.

Veterans' Day is a time for all of us to honor the sacrifices our troops make to protect our freedom. All of you are doing that by showing your concern for the conditions of our soldiers in Georgia.

In the Senate, I have the honor of being the first woman to serve on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. That means that I have the opportunity to help fight for the care and important services that our veterans need when they come home from war. Your actions here today will not only inspire me in my work on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, but it will inspire our troops as they receive your packages.

Veterans' Day is a time for all of us to honor the sacrifices our soldiers have made to protect our freedom. But our veterans must know that we are here for them every day – not just on Veterans' Day.

I will continue to work in the United States Senate to ensure that veterans in Washington state and across the country have what they need when they come home after fighting to protect us.

Thank you so much for doing your part for veterans thousands of miles away in Georgia.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
U.S. Senator Patty Murray