

## United States Senate

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Mr. Michael Minc  
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Dear Friends,

I want to extend my warmest wishes to everyone participating in Gene Vance Day in Morgantown. I truly appreciate the Gene Vance Foundation's efforts to commemorate Gene's faithful service and that of all West Virginia service members, especially those who gave their all in service to our nation.

Each and every service member and veteran, as well as their families, deserves our profound gratitude for their service to our country. In West Virginia, such service is deeply revered. From panhandle to panhandle, Morgantown to the Southern coalfields – our pride in military service runs deep. It's a pride matched only by the service that inspired it.

Over the past decade, many West Virginians have risked their lives for service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today is a time to honor each of them – and all service members across the country – for their courage, their devotion, and their sacrifices. And it's a time to honor the memory of those who gave it all for a cause that moved them at their very core.

As the longest serving member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have the greatest privilege of working daily on behalf of our veterans – for their health care, benefits and a positive transition back to civilian life. While progress has been made in many programs, we must continue to work until every veteran and family member has the range of services they need and have earned.

At the same time, here on the home front, we must always remember, pay tribute and respect. That's what you're doing in an inspirational way here today. You – the people of Morgantown – are to be commended for honoring Gene Vance and every New American Warrior. You have my gratitude and my best wishes.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV