



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20415

The Director

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Heads Of Executive Departments And Agencies

FROM: John Berry, Director

Subject: Veterans Day Observance Message

On November 11, 2009, our Nation will honor America's Veterans for their integrity, their sense of duty and their willingness to sacrifice. On this most sacred day, we recognize the service men and women who have bravely fought for our freedoms over the past two centuries, those who serve today as we face the unprecedented challenges of terrorism, and we remember those who gave their lives for our Country.

On Monday, President Barack Obama signed the Executive Order on the Employment of Veterans in the Federal Government, (whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/executive-order-veterans-employment-initiative) which establishes the Veterans Employment Initiative. While the Federal Government continues to be a leader in employing veterans, there is much room for improvement, especially in our domestic agencies. The Initiative underscores the importance of recruiting and training veterans and promoting employment opportunities for them within the executive branch of the Federal Government. We must make a concerted effort to improve employment opportunities for veterans both by helping veterans align their skills with the staffing needs of Federal agencies and ensuring that statutory veterans' preferences are vigorously enforced.

I believe strongly that we must do more to honor those who serve America in our Armed Forces and keep their skills, their drive, and their dedication to service in the Federal family. On this Veterans Day, I ask you to help further a Federal culture that welcomes Veterans and values their service, skills, and dedication.