

Dear Sir,

I had originally wanted to write a letter expressing my appreciation solely for our freedom and for having served in a military much harsher and different than the one I know. But, I know that you will respond with, “It was my job” or “It’s what we did.”

So, let me thank you for something else. From one veteran to another, I want to say thank you for doing your job so that your brothers and sisters-in-arms could serve to the best of their ability. And thank you for doing your job by giving them a reason to carry on. I know that the hours were long, the stress was high, and you missed your family, but you did your job. Thank you for standing beside me in spirit to remind me that I represent a long line of honor, courage, and commitment. My service is for my country, but also for those who have gone before me. I hope we make you proud.

Yes, I do want to thank you for paving the way and for showing us how it’s done - but what I really want to do is show you that what you did every day, regardless of how small you may have thought it was, mattered to someone. America is what it is today for your service, but your brothers and sisters are who they are because of the friend and comrade you were and continue to be. I am who I am because of Vets like you and for that I thank you.

Sincerely,

Mayumi Kimura
Operations Specialist Petty Officer First Class – Veteran
United States Navy