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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1401

October 24, 2007

Tara Dixon-Engel  
American Veterans Institute  
P.O. Box 85  
4½ East Main Street  
Tipp City, OH 45371

Dear Ms. Engel:

I commend the American Veterans Institute and the Kruse Foundation for sponsoring the upcoming *Midwest Operation Welcome Home*. I am pleased that Indiana will host this meaningful celebration to honor our nation's veterans.

From the Revolutionary War to the current Global War on Terror, Americans have faced harrowing circumstances in defense of freedom. It is appropriate today, and everyday, to pause to recognize the men and women who selflessly served in our nation's military.

*Midwest Operation Welcome Home* will provide a unique opportunity to celebrate our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who risked their lives during the Vietnam War. It is a chance to offer our long overdue gratitude for the sacrifices made by each veteran of that conflict. I am eager to offer my appreciation for the many unheralded services they provided, and continue to provide to our nation.

I am grateful for the efforts made to organize this homecoming celebration, and I encourage all veterans to be on hand from July 2-6, 2008 to receive our nation's appreciation.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Lugar  
United States Senator

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