

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

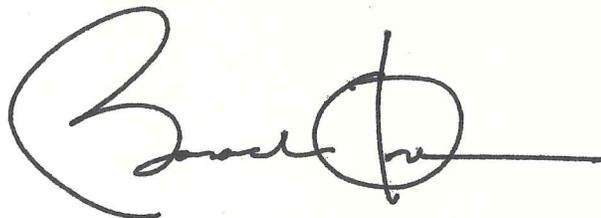
October 13, 2010

I send greetings to all those celebrating the 235th birthday of the United States Navy.

Whether at sea, on land, or in the sky, members of the United States Navy have ardently defended the cause of freedom. Since the Continental Navy was established by the Second Continental Congress in 1775, brave sailors have participated in every major military campaign America has engaged in around the world.

Today, the women and men of the United States Navy continue to answer our Nation's call, serving with honor and distinction. Navy service members have contributed immeasurably to the needs of our country over the past year, carrying out missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, participating in Haiti relief efforts in the wake of a tragic earthquake, and conducting global counter-piracy and maritime security operations. Wherever they are needed, our sailors exhibit courage and resolve, strengthening America for generations to come.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank you for your service. As you celebrate this milestone, I hope you look back with pride on the tremendous accomplishments of this proud branch of our military. May God bless all our men and women in uniform, and may God bless the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned at the bottom center of the page.