THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 12, 2011

I send greetings to all those celebrating the 236th birthday of the United States Navy.

Whether climbing the masts of the USS CONSTITUTION or walking the deck of the USS NEW YORK, the courageous sailors of the United States Navy have remained a constant source of strength and security for our Nation. Serving in times of war and peace, these brave heroes are part of an unbroken line of selfless Americans who have made incredible sacrifices to protect our freedoms and preserve our union.

Today, the men and women of the United States Navy maintain the freedom of the seas, air, and land with honor and distinction. From responding to the tragic events in Japan to bringing justice to terrorists around the globe, the Navy continues to exemplify the unparalleled professionalism, patriotism, and valor of all those who serve.

As members of the 9/11 Generation, today's sailors have borne the extraordinary burden of a decade of war. Tour after tour, they have written their own remarkable chapter in the narrative of America's Armed Forces, and they have earned a place among our greatest generations.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank you for your service. May God bless and protect you and your families, and may God bless the United States of America.