Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

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Portland Rotary Club
PO Box 1755
Portland, ME 04104

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Portland Rotary Club's 5th Annual Veterans' Appreciation Luncheon! I am sorry to miss this wonderful occasion to recognize the men and women who have faithfully served our state and nation in the Armed Forces.

Maine has one of the highest numbers of veterans per capita of any state in the nation, of men and women who share a deep bond built on service and dedication to the United States. Our state can proudly say that we are home to more than 114,000 veterans, more than 11 percent of our population. From the Revolutionary War to the Civil War to World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan – Maine people have stood up to defend our nation and its ideals, and our state has shouldered its responsibility to protect our country. My own father was a proud World War II Navy veteran who served during the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Pacific and saw kamikaze pilots attack his ship. Much later, my brother served several tours of duty off the shores of Vietnam in the U.S. Navy.

Maine veterans teach all of us many things, including to cherish our rights and to remember those who gave their lives for these freedoms. They teach us to remember that our sons and daughters still defend those rights on battlefields a world away and in postings across the globe. They teach us by their example the self-sufficiency they learned in combat preparation, and the strong sense of responsibility that comes from hard work and hard times. They teach us honor. They teach us dignity. They teach us service.

On behalf of the citizens of Maine, it is my honor and privilege to thank you for your service and sacrifice.

Thank you,

Janet T. Mills
Governor