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## United States Senate

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ARMED SERVICES  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION  
AND FORESTRY  
HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
SMALL BUSINESS  
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Good Afternoon:

I regret that I cannot be there in person to join in honoring the service of our selfless military veterans and the effort to ensure their access to quality housing.

I am encouraged by the work Healing Our Heroes and their stakeholder partners have undertaken to provide quality, veteran specific, low-income housing and veteran supportive services through the construction of Patriot Place.

For more than 20 years, I've had the privilege of serving my state and country while working alongside some of our nation's finest soldiers. From 2003 to 2004, I served as a company commander during Operation Iraqi Freedom where my unit was tasked with running convoys through Kuwait and southern Iraq.

Now, as a United States Senator, I am focused on ensuring that our veterans – America's tenacious survivors – receive the timely care that they were promised and deserve. That is why earlier this year, I introduced my first piece of legislation on the Senate floor called the Prioritizing Veterans' Access to Mental Health Care Act. And just recently I introduced the Veterans E-Health & Telemedicine Support Act of 2015. Both bills make significant strides toward increasing veterans' access to care.

Our veterans fought for us and defended us tirelessly. Now, it is our duty to do all we can to thank them and help them succeed. Thank you to Healing Our Heroes, the Seldin Company, and your partners for helping in this effort, and for making Patriot Place a reality.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless all of you, our veterans, the State of Iowa and the United States of America.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator

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