

# Letter from President G.P. "Bud" Peterson

## Veterans Day Message

Tuesday, November 11, 2009

For the first Veterans Day Proclamation in 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower said, "let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

In the United States, there are nearly 23.5 million veterans, men and women who have done their duty and stood their watch in defense of our nation's ideals. Today we pause to honor them for that commitment and their personal sacrifice.

Our armed forces not only protect our way of life, but also help defend those who are unable to do so themselves. Demonstrating character and courage when called upon, many bear the physical and psychic scars of armed conflict. They carry this burden so we may all pursue our shared values of liberty, justice, and self-determination. This is a debt that cannot be repaid.

At Georgia Tech we have 274 veterans among our faculty and staff. Another 275 students are enrolled in our ROTC programs. Today we honor the nobility of their commitment and contributions to this country. For those of you who have served, those who continue to serve, and those with family members in service abroad, you have our deepest appreciation and support. Our thoughts and prayers are with our veterans, with those who are now serving, and with you.

Thank you.

*G. P. "Bud" Peterson*  
President