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Letter: Thank you for your service

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According to the Oxford Dictionary, “to serve” is to perform duties or services for another person or an organization. It can also mean being subordinate to or employed by an individual or group, being of assistance to someone, or the practice of providing a service. On Veterans Day, we hear it over and over again. “Thank you for your service, but when you consider all of the meanings of “to serve,” is it enough? I’ve pondered this question. I hope that it’s always appreciated and never misunderstood. Our military members reflect the very best of our country and its enduring commitment to democracy, freedom, safety, and security.

They are our colleagues, our union brothers and sisters, and public servants. They are committee members, family, and friends. They are public defenders, tradesmen, and women. They are our teachers and professors, retail store clerks, maintenance workers, highway maintainers, and truck drivers. They are our parents, guardians, mental health workers, child protective service workers, police officers, first responders, and politicians. Yet, no matter their backgrounds, they all share the communal spirit of service before self, a bond that unites our nation. It is that devotion to public service that unites us all for the common good. Many of New Hampshire’s public employees are themselves veterans, and we can appreciate how service to our state connects the work we all do to make the world a better place. We acknowledge and are grateful that you continue “to serve,” not just one day but every day.

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