



# ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

2425 Wilson Boulevard • Arlington, Virginia 22201-3385 • (703) 841-4300

5 December 2013

General Gordon R. Sullivan  
United States Army (Ret.)  
President

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
269 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Levin:

On behalf of the members of the Association of the United States Army, I write to urge you as you complete work on the National Defense Authorization Act to include language that would allow payment of the \$100,000 death gratuity to survivors of military personnel regardless of the vagaries of the legislative process.

The disturbing scenario that occurred in October when the federal government could not provide the death gratuity to military survivors must not be repeated. Families of military personnel who give their lives for their country should have the certainty of knowing that their immediate financial needs will be met regardless of the state of function of the federal government.

Include in the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act clear language that without exception will authorize payment of the death gratuity to the families of deceased military personnel.

Sincerely,

GORDON R. SULLIVAN  
General, USA Retired

GRS/wbl