THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

Dear Veteran: June 21, 2021

Thank you for your service to our Nation. Your commitment to our country's long legacy of service has protected us, and our Nation owes you a debt of gratitude we can never repay.

We must once again ask you to volunteer to serve. COVID-19 has affected all of us in unique ways. We have lost far too many former brothers and sisters in arms, family members and friends over the last year. It is time for this pandemic to be over and I ask for your help in protecting this Nation and completing the last part of this journey. Our greatest hope in defeating this deadly virus is for each of us to get vaccinated as soon as possible. The three vaccines available in the United States have been extensively studied and are proven to be safe and effective. Each of us is safer as more of our community is vaccinated.

Vaccination is essential to our return to normalcy. We hope that you will choose to be vaccinated to protect yourself, your families and friends and our health care workers. While vaccines are widely available, people are still falling ill and needing treatment due to COVID-19. Studies show that if you are vaccinated, it is less likely that you will become severely ill, require hospitalization or become at risk of dying. In fact, a recent Cleveland Clinic study showed that over 99% of those hospitalized due to COVID-19 were not fully vaccinated.

For your convenience, enclosed is a brochure that provides more information about the COVID-19 vaccine. If you have additional questions or concerns about the vaccines, please reach out to your health care team to discuss with them or go to https://www.va.gov/covid-vaccine-questions. VA is accepting all Veterans, regardless of whether they are enrolled or eligible to enroll in VHA health care, spouses and caregivers of Veterans, and CHAMPVA beneficiaries to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. We are offering walk-in clinics without an appointment to any Veteran, their spouse, and caregiver and we encourage you to come get your shot today. To schedule an appointment, you can sign up at https://www.va.gov/covidvaccine. Your local VA facility will contact you with scheduling details. You may also call **1-800-698-2411 or** go to https://www.va.gov/find-locations to check your local facility's schedule.

If you have received your COVID-19 vaccination outside of the VA system, please tell us so we can keep your health record up to date. You can either bring your COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card to your next appointment, call your primary care team, or share with your primary care team by uploading an image of your vaccine card to your My HealtheVet account.

The Department of Veterans Affairs appreciates your service to our Nation and defense of our freedoms. Getting the vaccine and ensuring others do the same is one way you can continue to protect those with whom you served, your family and your community. You can protect them from this terrible disease that has already claimed too many lives.

Sincerely,

Denis McDonough
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Richard A. Stone, M.D.
Acting Under Secretary for Health

Enclosure