



WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

November 10, 2004

The Honorable Robert Dole
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob:

Hillary and I are delighted to congratulate you as you are honored by the National Defense University Foundation with the American Patriot Award.

Since the first days of our independence, brave Americans have stepped forward to protect our country and promote our ideals, no matter what the cost. In peacetime and in war, in the military and in Congress, you have epitomized this fine tradition. As a young man, you proved that your love of country knew no bounds through your heroic service in World War II. Far from considering your debt to your country paid, you then dedicated the next nearly 50 years of your life to public service. A moving force for ending violent aggression in Bosnia, a steadfast advocate for our men and women in uniform, and an unwavering defender of voting rights because, in your own eloquent words, "no first-class democracy can tolerate second-class citizens," your contributions to world peace, to national security, and to the strength of our democracy are immeasurable and lasting. You are a statesman, politician, veteran, husband, father, and friend, but I agree with the National Defense University Foundation that there is no better word to describe you than "patriot."

Hillary and I send our best wishes to you and Elizabeth for a memorable award ceremony.

Sincerely,

Bill