

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 3, 2011

Dear Colleague:

As you may know, the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) has long served the American people as the civilian auxiliary of the Air Force. The civilian aviators who have made up its ranks in the 70 years since its creation have time and again answered our nation's call with honor, courage, and distinction. Congress has a responsibility to ensure that this proud tradition is never forgotten. To appropriately honor the contributions of the Civil Air Patrol, we would like to invite you to join us as cosponsors of S. 418, legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

During WWII, the men and women of the CAP were vital in neutralizing the threat of German U-Boats on U.S. civilian and military ships off the coast of the United States. Over the course of the war, more than 60,000 men and women served in CAP aircrews, flying a total of approximately 750,000 hours, most of which were in their personal aircraft and often at real risk to their lives. CAP operations reported 173 submarines and found 325 survivors of attacks. By the end of the war, 64 members of the CAP had died in service to their country. In 1943, submarine attacks on the Atlantic Coast had ended, with one German official saying, "it was because of those damned little red and yellow planes!"

Those members of the coastal patrols have truly earned the honor that would be bestowed by this legislation. Accordingly, we hope you will join us in co-sponsoring this important legislation. If you are interested in co-sponsoring, or would like additional information, please have your staff contact Tom Buttry in Senator Harkin's office at tom_buttry@harkin.senate.gov or at 4-9604.

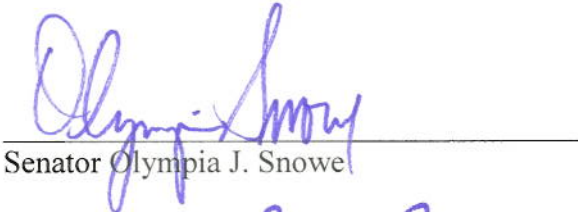
Sincerely,



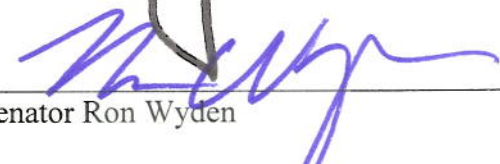
Senator Tom Harkin



Senator Daniel K. Inouye



Senator Olympia J. Snowe



Senator Ron Wyden



Senator Mike Crapo



Senator Mark Begich