

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 24, 2011

Rabbi Harold L. Robinson  
Kenneth G. Kraetzer  
William C. Daroff

Jewish Chaplains Memorial  
c/o JWB Jewish Chaplains Council  
520 Eighth Avenue – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10010

Dear Messrs Robinson, Kraetzer, and Daroff:

I write with great appreciation and congratulations for your leadership in the successful effort to establish a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, in honor of the Jewish chaplains who have died in service. This memorial is a fine tribute to these brave Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for their fellow citizens. I am privileged and humbled to join you in honoring the fourteen Jewish chaplains who lost their lives during their military service.

Military chaplains have long provided an invaluable service to the members of the Armed Forces, in providing spiritual support to all service members. In doing so, they expose themselves to the same hazards as the rest of our troops. They do so knowing that our troops in the field need that spiritual support at least as much, if not more, than those who are not in harm's way.

It is especially fitting that this memorial be dedicated during the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of service by Jewish chaplains in the U.S. Armed Forces. In 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil War, rabbis bravely came to serve alongside chaplains of other faiths. Three years later, Arlington National Cemetery was established under the leadership of President Lincoln. Today, at our most historic and notable National Cemetery, there is no better place to honor the lives of these exemplary Americans.

While our chaplains minister to those in their own faith, they also provide spiritual support to all, regardless of individual faiths. In that, it is appropriate that this memorial sit alongside similar memorials honoring chaplains of other faiths who have perished in the line of duty. It is heartbreaking to recall the loss of these fine people, mostly young men who had so much more to give in life. Nevertheless, we stand in tribute to their service, a reminder and an embodiment of the ideals upon which our Nation was founded, and upon which it thrives.

Thank you and bless you for leadership in establishing this fine memorial to the service and the lives of these great Americans who have gone before us.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator