



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

November 6, 2006

Dear Mr. President:

With my resignation as Secretary of Defense comes my deep appreciation to you for providing me this unexpected opportunity to serve.

I leave with great respect for you and for the leadership you have provided during a most challenging time for our country. The focus, determination and perseverance you have so consistently provided have been needed and are impressive.

It has been the highest honor of my long life to have been able to serve our country at such a critical time in our history and to have had the privilege of working so closely with the truly amazing young men and women in uniform. Their dedication, professionalism, courage and sacrifice are an inspiration.

It is time to conclude my service. As I do so, I want you to know that you have my continuing and heartfelt support as you enter the final two years of your Presidency.

Respectfully,

Donald Rumsfeld

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

11/7/06