



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

March 30, 2011

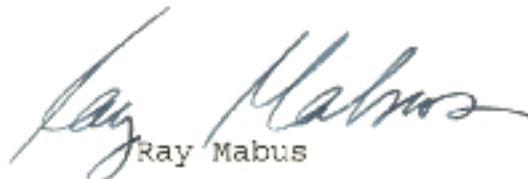
GREETINGS TO ALL COMMEMORATING THE 67<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF EXERCISE TIGER

On behalf of the Department of the Navy and a grateful Nation, I join you in remembering and honoring the Sailors and Servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice for their countrymen during a critical time in our Nation's history.

The Normandy invasion was one of the largest military undertakings in world history and marked the turning point in World War II. The invasion would not have been such a crucial success had it not been for the numerous rehearsal exercises leading up to the assault. The 749 Americans who lost their lives in the early hours of April 28, 1944, when the Exercise Tiger amphibious assault forces were unexpectedly attacked by nine German E-boats, remind us of freedom's inestimable cost. While the loss of life was tragic, the lessons learned from Exercise Tiger ensured the success of the Normandy invasion.

I commend each of you gathered here today in the cause of keeping this important event fresh in the minds of our countrymen. Devoted Americans like you make sure the sacrifices of those who fought so valiantly on that terrible day will never be forgotten. Our collective efforts to remember that sacrifice will ensure future generations do not take our liberties for granted.

God Bless America and God Bless the Exercise Tiger Association!

  
Ray Mabus