I am delighted to send warm greetings to all those gathered at the United States Mint in Philadelphia for the striking of the first Korean War Commemorative Coin.

In the summer of 1950, President Harry Truman committed American forces to help the people of South Korea defend themselves against a neighbor's aggression. Today, as our Nation welcomes home the brave service men and women who have helped to liberate Kuwait, it is fitting that we also pay tribute to our Korean War veterans who, more than 40 years ago, likewise put themselves in harm's way to uphold the universal cause of freedom.

The sale of these commemorative coins will go a long way to fund the construction of a much-deserved memorial to our Korean War Veterans. Thanks to the work of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board -- and to the outstanding contributions and support that the Board has received from thousands of veterans -- this memorial will remind all Americans of the value of liberty and the courage of those who have risked their lives to preserve it.

Barbara joins me in sending best wishes. God bless you.

[Signature]