

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

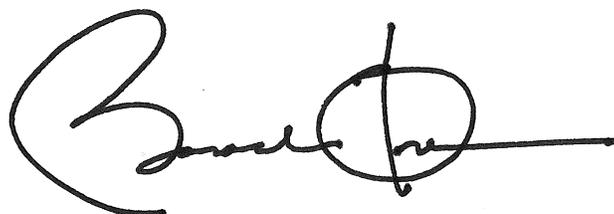
November 3, 2014

Since our Nation's founding, brave men and women have put themselves in harm's way to protect the land we love and the freedoms we cherish. With profound selflessness, these patriots serve on behalf of us all and enable our country to thrive. Even after our service members hang up their uniforms, they keep shaping our country, applying their innovative and unique skills to form small businesses that define our communities and drive economic progress. During Veterans Small Business Week, we celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit that is crucial to developing the products, services, and ideas that fuel our economy, and we pay tribute to the veterans behind them.

From coffee shops to tech startups, veteran-owned businesses fortify America by boosting our economic competitiveness and enriching our neighborhoods and towns. Veteran entrepreneurs are responsible for nearly 1 out of every 10 small businesses. Those businesses generate over 1.2 trillion dollars in receipts every year and employ nearly 6 million workers. Supporting veteran entrepreneurs is not just good for their bottom line—it is good for our entire Nation. With unmatched determination and unbounded ingenuity, these highly-skilled and highly-trained heroes help expand our economy and reflect an ideal at the heart of the American dream—that with hope and hard work, we can unlock opportunity and build a brighter future.

That is why my Administration remains steadfast in our commitment to our veterans and is working to foster an environment where veterans can access the tools and resources to start or grow a business. Through initiatives like Boots to Business and BusinessUSA, we have taken steps to ensure Government works better for veteran-owned businesses. We are increasing training in entrepreneurship and providing mentorship opportunities, and we have cut taxes 18 times for small businesses. These measures help veterans' businesses thrive and have a ripple effect on our efforts to ensure those who fought on the battlefield do not have to fight for a job at home—veterans are more likely to hire other veterans.

Demonstrating the virtues that make America great, our veterans embody the integrity and dedication to service that reflect the true meaning of patriotism. This week, let us recommit to supporting them and the small businesses that power the greatest economic engine the world has ever known.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written in a cursive style.



*All the best,* 