



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER, SUITE 15-200
Chicago, Illinois 60601

PAT QUINN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send a Holiday Message to Our Troops Overseas

Dear Editor:

About 80 miles southwest of Frankfurt Germany – and a five-hour medevac flight from Iraq – there is a bustling military hospital where skilled medical personnel are treating American soldiers who were wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center is the largest American military hospital outside of the continental United States, with about 110 physicians, 250 nurses, 40 Medical Service Corps officers, 900 enlisted personnel, and 550 civilian employees who work together to treat the most seriously wounded. They have been called our soldiers' angels.

I have had the opportunity to visit the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center twice. It is there where I met Pfc. Tyler Hoogerwerf, a paratrooper in the U.S. Army 173rd Airborne Brigade, and a 19-year-old soccer player from Geneseo, Illinois.

Tyler suffered shrapnel wounds, leg fractures and potentially permanent hearing loss when his patrol was ambushed in Afghanistan. Another Illinois soldier, 22-year-old Army Spc. Jacob Lowell of New Lenox, saved Tyler's life. Jacob was a gunner who refused to stop shooting during the attack, providing life-saving cover for the rest of his unit, and sacrificing his own life in the process.

Stories like these reverberate throughout the hospital halls at Landstuhl and it is the servicemembers and civilians that care for our wounded soldiers who listen to them. But they too have stories to tell.

I had lunch with 11 men and women from across Illinois who are serving as doctors and nurses at Landstuhl. Some grew up in small towns in Illinois, while others grew up in Chicago. Some are Cubs fans, while others root for the White Sox. But they all agree on one thing: It means a lot when folks from home send their love.

This holiday season we have an opportunity to remind the servicemembers working or recovering at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center that they are in our hearts. We are asking all Illinois schoolchildren to take part in a massive mission to make personalized holiday cards for our troops.

I will return to Landstuhl the week before Christmas to personally deliver the handmade cards. I look forward to bringing messages of love and support from Illinois to our troops overseas.

Holiday cards may be mailed or carried to:

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph St. Ste 15-200
Chicago, IL 60601
Questions? Contact Jen Hoelzle 312-814-4220

Sincerely,

Pat Quinn
Lieutenant Governor