Mr. President, I rise today to wish happy birthday to the oldest branch of our Armed Forces, the United States Army. Two hundred and thirty-three years ago, June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress approved the creation of a Continental Army (10 companies of riflemen, to defend American liberty). From the Revolutionary War to Iraq and Afghanistan, our men and women have served with bravery, selflessness and noble purpose.

Love of their country has inspired men and women to serve a cause greater than themselves. Regard for the principles our nation was founded on motivates them to continue to fight and defend.

To say simply our Armed Forces have shaped history is an understatement. They have not only shaped history, they have defined America, and represented our nation's highest values..."Duty, Honor, Country."
Every generation of soldiers since the foundation of our country has protected our democracy and helped make the world more peaceful, secure and prosperous.

The sacrifices our soldiers have made in service to our country, and the price their families have paid are worthy of America's honor and respect. So as we celebrate the Army's 233rd birthday, we really celebrate our men and women in uniform who have given so much. Thank you.

In the Army's grandest tradition and as a proud Army veteran, I proclaim my annual Senate floor..."HOOAH!"