



MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

STATE OF MARYLAND
MILITARY DEPARTMENT
FIFTH REGIMENT ARMORY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2288

JAMES A. ADKINS
BRIGADIER GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

18 February 2010

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF MARYLAND

As Maryland's Adjutant General and the senior leader of the Maryland National Guard, I would like to express my thanks to the local and state officials, first responders and the citizens of Maryland for their outpouring of appreciation for the Maryland National Guard during the recent record-breaking back-to-back snowstorms. Approximately 700 men and women of the Maryland Army and Air National Guard were activated for state active duty by Governor O'Malley and deployed to assist state and local authorities by rescuing stranded motorists, transporting firemen and equipment to fight fires, transferring severely injured and sick patients to medical treatment facilities, and transporting first responder personnel and critical supplies, such as road salt, to emergency sites around the state. One of our teams even assisted in the delivery of a baby.

These Citizen Soldiers have stepped up to answer the call from our state and our nation since 1634. They have fought in our wars and responded to emergencies and disasters across our country. These men and women are well trained and well motivated to assist their neighbors in times of distress. They are your fathers and mothers; sons and daughters; brothers and sisters. They represent the best of Maryland, and I am proud of their accomplishments during this crisis as they left their own homes and families to serve their neighbors and fellow citizens.

Time after time, we have heard the stories from every corner of our state of the tremendous efforts of the men and women of the Maryland National Guard. The expressions of gratitude by state and local officials, first responders and Marylanders have made the whole effort worthwhile. Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Adkins".

JAMES A. ADKINS
Brigadier General, MDARNG
The Adjutant General