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MINNESOTA

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 28, 2009

Lao Veterans of America
c/o Khao Insiengmay
Executive Director, Lao Veterans of America
2648 W. Broadway Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Dear Friends:

Good evening. Thank you so much for inviting me to join you at this year's celebration of Royal Lao Armed Forces Day. Unfortunately I am up in the Red River Valley of Minnesota working with local, state and federal leaders to speed relief to flood threatened areas of our state and cannot be with you in person. Please know that I have great respect and admiration for the service and sacrifice of the Lao and Hmong veterans of America's Royal Lao Armed Forces. They risked their lives – and in some cases made the ultimate sacrifice – to defend Laos and protect democracy in the region.

Decades ago, our country called on you to serve, and you answered that call with courage and honor, saving countless lives, many American, and for that, we owe a debt we can never fully repay.

I would also like to thank the Lao Veteran Association of Minnesota for organizing today's event and for its continued advocacy on behalf of Lao veterans.

Minnesotans have always opened our arms to people from around the world to our state's community, and today many people from Laos call Minnesota home.

So many of you came here with very little, and through pure grit and determination, made your way in this country. By getting involved in your community, you have made your voice heard.

I am proud to represent Minnesota's Lao community in the United States Senate. You have built a strong and vibrant community that is a part of the fabric of our state.

This year we inaugurated a new President and during his inaugural speech, President Obama said, "To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of

dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history; but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist.” It is for these values that men and women, American and Lao alike fought and died for.

President Obama has called on each of us to stand up and come together to move our nation, and our world, forward with unity and common purpose.

I believe that all of us here are ready to answer this call, and as your Senator, I look forward to working with you to restore our footing on the path to prosperity and opportunity.

So today, let us celebrate those who have served with bravery and dignity and give thanks and appreciation for all they have sacrificed. And let us honor their sacrifice by standing up and speaking out in support of the values they have fought and bled for.

Thank you again for inviting me. I hope you enjoy the evening. I am proud and humbled to serve you in the United States Senate.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Klobuchar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" written in a smaller, more compact style than the last name "Klobuchar".

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator