



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

MAY 31 2006

Dr. Lawrence H. Summers
President, Harvard University
Massachusetts Hall
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear President Summers:

As you depart your duties as President of Harvard University, I ask that you accept my thanks for your support of another great institution -- the U. S. Armed Forces, and in particular its Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). Your support has been enormously constructive to the objectives of both of our institutions.

You are the first Harvard president in recent memory to attend the annual commissioning ceremony of Harvard ROTC graduates, and you provided a keynote address each year with a content that was heartfelt and inspiring to your students. You recognized the special career challenges those students chose to pursue; and in doing so, you honored all of your students and faculty. You offered these newly commissioned officers and their undergraduate classmates something they appreciate, but more important, something they deserve: recognition of their personal commitment to serve this great Nation.

Through your actions, you provided every ROTC student with an important sense of belonging, and for that I am most grateful. Please accept my best wishes for every continued future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Gates", written in a cursive style.

