



THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Mr. John Waller
Chairman of the Board
The OSS Society

John

With the men and women of the Central Intelligence Agency, I am honored to mark the 61st anniversary of our wartime parent, the Office of Strategic Services. Established by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1942, a time of grave danger for America, OSS would prove to be a great and resourceful defender of liberty.

In conditions of global conflict, the patriots of OSS gathered and analyzed important information about the strength and plans of the Axis powers. Difficult as that job was, they assumed another, tougher still. From bases overseas, they set out—alone and with local allies—to reduce the strength of the enemy and frustrate his plans.

In Europe and Asia, OSS gave direct support to those resisting tyranny. And with that material support came something else, no less vital: the knowledge—the reassurance—that the fighters behind the lines did not fight alone, that beside them stood free peoples everywhere.

The contributions of OSS to victory in World War Two were the product of exceptional effort and profound sacrifice. They were also the result of remarkable teamwork, of an organization that drew for talent on the diversity of America and valued its clerks and administrators no less than its scholars, scientists, and warriors.

William J. Donovan, who carried within him a history of valor and a preference for the bold, called OSS “an unusual experiment.” For CIA, that experiment is a foundation on which we continue to build. In its courage, creativity, daring, and spirit—in its willingness to try what had not been tried before—OSS remains a powerful source of inspiration.

Having the OSS family gather at CIA Headquarters in June of last year is an event I will always remember. And the deeds of OSS—performed in the cause of freedom—are something America will never forget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Tenet". The signature is stylized and fluid, with the first and last names being the most prominent.

George J. Tenet