



सत्यमेव जयते

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence  
Member of Consultative Committee on Finance  
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps  
Co-Chairman, District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee, Bengaluru Urban District

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

Excellency,

Sub: Supreme Commanders Bi-Annual at home for Martyrs families and Disabled War Veterans

Our Armed Forces personnel, their families and Veterans represent a truly dedicated group of people whose sense of selfless service to the Nation is a matter of great pride.

The Rashtrapati is Supreme commander of the Armed forces and for the men and women in uniform, their families and the veterans who have served, the services - Army, Navy and Airforce - are like an extended family—and the Supreme Commander is considered as the head of this “family”.

In service, our men and women make tremendous sacrifices for the Nation. Since Independence, about 2400 brave soldiers have laid down their lives in the line of duty in Wars and operations within and outside the country.

The *Veer Naris*/widows of Martyrs, their children, parents of the Bravehearts and the other family members of the Bravehearts suffer irreparable loss and their sacrifices go unrecognised. As a Nation, it should be our duty to ensure that wives and children of our martyrs and the parents of the martyrs are treated with dignity and respect and to let them know that they have the Nation's support.

Our Nation's commitment to respect and support our Armed Forces and their families is an unwritten pact between society and the military – a pact reinforced by custom and convention over the past 70 decades.

**Suggestion:**

To carry forward this custom and to reinforce the Nation's commitment for the well-being of *Veer Naris*, their children and parents of the Martyrs - I would like to suggest the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces host an at home twice a year to mark the anniversaries of 1971 War Vijay Diwas on 16<sup>th</sup> December and on Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26<sup>th</sup> July for families of martyrs and gallantry award recipient veterans and disabled veterans who have fought in the wars of 1947, 1962, 1965, 1971 and 1999, and other Operations.



The wives, parents and children of those who are posthumous Gallantry award winners have very rarely been invited or honoured by the country after the passing of their loved ones in Battle or operations. So, it will go a long way if the Supreme Commander welcomes them twice a year to this kind of a function.

The at home receptions would serve as a befitting occasion to not only to pay tribute to the heroes who laid down their lives for the Nation, but more to convey gratitude to the mothers and wives of martyrs and war disabled for their sacrifices. If required, the Flags of Honour Foundation of which I am part would be happy to help assist in organising this.

The Armed Forces look upon the President as the last bastion for their rights, and by setting this new precedent of hosting families of martyrs and disabled war veterans in the exercise of functions as Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces the President of India will break new ground.

Yours Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Ram Nath Kovind  
His Excellency President of India  
Rashtrapathi Bhavan  
New Delhi