



CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

FEB 10 2014

**Dear Mr. Yellin:**

**It was an absolute pleasure meeting you last year at the Air Force Association conference. As the proud son of a fighter pilot who, like you, was part of the “Greatest Generation,” I’m always honored to spend time with Airmen like you – the heroes who helped win World War II, built an Air Force, and showed us the meaning of words like courage and sacrifice.**

**As with many who served, your commitment to service has endured well beyond your time in uniform. Thank you for your continued interest in national defense, your support of veterans, and the inspiration you provide our young folks through organizations such as the Spirit of ‘45, which is now planning events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. Next year’s celebrations will provide an important opportunity to pay tribute to our World War II veterans, but will also shine a spotlight on the heritage that connects America to Airmen, and Airmen to each other.**

**I truly believe that this heritage we share is a gift. People like you, my dad, and many others gave us that gift. I strive every day to be worthy of it. Thank you for who you are, what you do, and what you stand for. Airpower... the Airmen of ‘45 built the foundation!**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Welsh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**MARK A. WELSH III  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff**