



August 24, 2010

Dear Mark "Coach" Soto:

The National Guard is a proud sponsor of The National Football League's High School Player Development program which emphasizes character development and community service for young athletes. These athletes are expected to be leaders on and off the playing field and I am extremely proud to recognize their respective contribution.

"Battle at the Capital" is a perfect example of two entities coming together for their mutual benefit, and I want to thank the organizers, Mark Soto, Matt Williams, Casey Taylor, and countless others, for incorporating the military into this event. This partnership also gives young athletes opportunities to meet role models who are putting their leadership skills to work in many different career fields.

Rather than endeavoring to create better football players, this partnership aims to raise better Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors, doctors, lawyers and citizens who will positively contribute to society as they mature and become adults. Participants in this program will recognize that being a member of the Guard also means being a member of their community, particularly when responding to domestic emergencies.

I also want to thank all of you in attendance, whose gratitude and support for the Armed Forces is essential to troop morale and confidence. You inspire our service members to continue doing what they do best; protect the citizens of this great state and nation. Your unwavering support is beyond measure and is sincerely appreciated by the more than 22,000 men and women of the California National Guard.

Have a great tournament!

Sincerely,

Mary J. Kight  
Brigadier General  
The Adjutant General