



State of Maine
Office of the First Lady
Augusta, Maine
04333

March 20, 2014

Major David Cote
USMC
Founder – The Summit Project
1200 N. Garfield St., Apt. 802
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Major Cote-

Since becoming Maine's First Lady when my husband, Paul, was sworn into office as this great state's 74th governor on January 5, 2011, I have made it my mission to recognize and support our service members and their families in any way I can. That is why I want to express my gratitude and thank you for your service to this Nation and also to the family members of Maine's fallen heroes through the creation of the Summit Project.

Born and raised in a central Maine small town, I grew up learning the importance of working hard; lending a hand to those in need; and serving my community, state, and nation. Mainer's truly epitomize the spirit of the American people which is why I am so pleased to fully lend my support to your vision of the Summit Project.

I'm ever impressed with our military men and women and their commitment to not only this country, but each other. I can think of no better manner in which to honor our fellow Mainer's who "gave the last full measure of devotion" than by carrying their stones to the top of Mount Katahdin. The importance of our fellow citizens carrying the weight of these heroes' stones in their packs and stories in their hearts makes this a true Living Memorial and symbol of dedication to state, country and each other. President Garfield once said, "Territory is but the body of a nation. The people who inhabit its hills and valleys are its soul, its spirit, its life." The Summit Project will use Maine's territory to forever mark each hero's place in America's soul, spirit, and life.

Freedom is not, and never has been, free. It comes from great selflessness and sacrifice. I believe it is imperative that we always remember and appreciate what has been given so that we can enjoy all the liberties and freedoms that come from living in the greatest nation in the world. Our part is to remember, honor, and teach all future generations that it is only because of the sacrifices of heroic men and women that we are free.

I thank you for your vision and commitment to honor Maine's fallen and I am proud to pledge my full and unending support of the Summit Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann M. LePage".

Ann M. LePage
First Lady of Maine