January 15, 1948

Honorable James Forrestal,
Secretary of Defense,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Jim:

I take the liberty of extending this invitation to you because I believe that the occasion is one to which you will wish to give your support.

I am Chairman of the 53rd Anniversary Dinner of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States. This organization, the oldest veterans' organization in the country next to the Grand Army of the Republic, will celebrate its 53rd anniversary by a public dinner honoring the men who fought in World War II. The dinner will take place at the Waldorf-Astoria on the evening of February 29th. The proceedings of the dinner will be broadcast so that the 604 posts of the Jewish War Veterans may listen in at similar dinners held simultaneously in cities throughout the United States. It is hoped that in addition to the radio broadcasts, arrangements may be completed for television broadcasts also.

General Joseph T. McNarney is to head our military Guests of Honor along with twenty of the most decorated men of our organization. I have the privilege of asking you to be our principal speaker for this national and important event. We expect a large number of community leaders at this affair.

The 600,000 Jews who fought in World War II, would deem it a very great privilege and inspiration to have you as our guest speaker. Hundreds of these men will be in the audience, and we are arranging to have a substantial number of disabled veterans at the affair.
As Chairman, it would be my pleasure to introduce you. I hope very much that you will find it possible and agreeable to accept this invitation.

Anticipating a favorable reply from you as soon as possible, I remain

Yours very sincerely,