Dear Governor Lehman:

Many thanks for your cordial and complimentary invitation to participate in the celebration of the twenty-ninth anniversary of the Senate War Veterans of the U.S. I regret very, very much that I cannot accept, and attend. Mrs. Hildring and I are not leaving Arizona until March 10th, and we will be back in Washington until the 15th.

So far as I know, my only real weakness is old soldiers. With them, my attitude is sentimental, and my reactions to everything they say or do is wholly emotional and without reason or logic. I almost never decline an invitation from veterans "to be present," in any case I am never too busy. I particularly regret that geography makes it impossible for me to accept this invitation because it is the first one I have ever gotten from the SWV. In spite of my inability to accept, I hope you will let him know that.

Thank you again, Governor, for thinking of me.

Respectfully,

John Hildring