



Dear Bay Area Friends Of Tibet:

I am honored and humbled to offer my greetings and best wishes for happiness and harmony to all those commemorating the 52nd anniversary of Tibetan National Uprising Day.

52 years ago, the Tibetan people were confronted with their greatest challenge – the invasion by China, which led to the loss of many Tibetan lives. However, the Tibetan people did not respond with violence, instead they showcased their dedication to nonviolence. The Tibetan people and His Holiness the Dalai Lama have earned international admiration for their outstanding moral and religious leadership and advocacy.

When I visited Tibet I saw in the Tibetan people a deep and passionate commitment to preserving a culture that emphasizes a harmonious blend of religion and governance, a culture that is profoundly dedicated to the betterment of its members, yet also a culture that emphasizes respect toward other minorities. My experience with the Tibetan people has had a lasting impact on me that has played a fundamental role in my view of the world.

The persecution that the Tibetan people have endured and their fight to preserve their culture has inspired all of us to remain vigilant in our commitment to defending basic human rights. Today's event plays an important role in remembering the persecution that Tibetans have faced, as well as supporting the Tibetan people and their fight to practice their spirituality and retain their rich religious, artistic and cultural traditions.

I commend the dedication of the many people who worked hard to make today's event a success, and I thank the Bay Area Friends of Tibet for continuing to work on behalf of the Tibetan community. Please accept my best wishes for a great event.

Your friend,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Blakeslee", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Senator Sam Blakeslee