



## Message from the Executive Director

March 27, 2009

Dear TSP Participants:

The news headlines of the past few months have underscored the fact that the economy has left many of us feeling uncertain about our future financial security. But for many, a byproduct of recent events has been a serious reevaluation of personal savings habits, risk tolerance, and debt management. While there is consensus that the economy is not in good health at the present time, this period of uncertainty has highlighted the fact that during all economic cycles, we can, and should, take steps to improve the health of our personal finances.

April is Financial Literacy Month. It is supported nationwide by public and private organizations whose goal is to emphasize the importance of smart money management. The web site, [www.financialliteracymonth.com](http://www.financialliteracymonth.com), developed by Money Management International, is an excellent resource that outlines thirty steps to financial wellness, including goal setting, record keeping, and hints for reducing debt and spending.

At the TSP, we want to keep you thinking about financial literacy and personal finance as they pertain to your retirement savings. We want to help you understand why the TSP has been widely acknowledged as a premier qualified retirement plan. For example, did you know that the TSP offers investments suited to participants who are just starting out in their Federal or uniformed services careers, as well as to those already in retirement, and everyone in between? And were you aware that there are TSP investments for all participants, no matter what their level of risk tolerance? You should also know that your TSP account doesn't automatically retire when you do. You have the option of keeping it with the TSP after you leave Federal or uniformed service, and you have until age 70½ before you are required to make withdrawals.

The TSP offers a range of solid investment options without confounding you with an endless or overlapping list of choices. At the same time, we keep our expenses very low—and that means there's more money working for you in your account. We also make it easy to contribute to the TSP. Your contributions come out of your pay and are made before your taxes are calculated, so that's less of your gross pay that is withheld for the IRS.

For more information, I encourage you to read the April issue of the TSP *Highlights* newsletter. It summarizes the features of the TSP that make it a compelling choice for your retirement savings. You can also test your TSP literacy by trying the crossword puzzle on the reverse side of the newsletter. Financial Literacy Month is the perfect opportunity to assess all aspects of your financial life and to put a plan in place. Be sure that retirement savings are a part of that plan.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "GTL", written in a cursive style.

Gregory T. Long  
Executive Director