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AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TIMOTHY J. WALZ
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
FIRST DISTRICT, MINNESOTA
WWW.WALZ.HOUSE.GOV

July 14, 2016

Dear Colleague,

I write to humbly ask for your support to serve as Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the 115th Congress. Ensuring care for our Veterans must be our foremost priority when selecting our leadership on this vital committee. In the wake of recent mismanagement within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), our nation's Veterans and their families need an experienced and faithful advocate guiding the Committee. We need a leader who can work with the Veteran Service Organizations, the VA, and Veterans themselves to develop effective policy and be prepared to lead the entire Committee as Chairman when we retake the House.

As a retired Command Sergeant Major with 24 years of service in the Army National Guard, I am the highest ranking enlisted soldier to ever serve in Congress. I possess the passion, knowledge and legislative experience necessary to be the lead Democratic voice on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. The VA continues to face significant challenges, and, in the coming years, more than a million service members will become Veterans. I believe I am the right person, at the right time, to lead a committee whose sole purpose is to honor our commitment to those who have "borne the battle" and given this nation so much.

Caring for our men and women in uniform and their families has been my priority since being elected to the House of Representatives from Minnesota's First District. Over the past 9 years on the Committee, that priority has translated into the following efforts:

- fighting the scourge of Veteran suicide with the Clay Hunt SAV Act,
- ensuring Vietnam War Veterans exposed to Agent Orange and Veterans from every theater of operations that have been exposed to the toxins of war receive appropriate VA benefits and care,
- reducing the VA benefits backlog,
- enhancing mental health care services to Veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental health conditions,
- co-founding the bipartisan and bicameral Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus, which works with our nation's employers to increase the awareness and promotion of hiring Veterans, and
- serving on the conference committee responsible for finalizing legislation to reform the VA, which included many of my priorities.

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My strong advocacy for the Veterans' community in Congress has garnered recognition and awards from leading Veteran Service Organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV), Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), U.S. Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame, American Veterans (AMVETS), Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), the Reserve Officer Association (ROA), HillVets, and the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA).

In fact, within the past week, I've been endorsed by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) to become the next Ranking Member of the Committee.

Although I am incredibly honored to be acknowledged by these leading Veteran Service Organizations and advocates, I know there is much more work to be done.

Our VA system is in crisis, and now, more than ever, Democrats need a strong, respected voice to address these problems head on and build the coalition required get Veterans and their families the care they deserve. I humbly ask for your support to serve as Ranking Member as we continue our most important work together: to ensure care and support for Veterans and their families.

Thank you for your consideration, your friendship, and your public service.

Sincerely,

Tim Walz
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Representative Walz Recognized for his Veterans Advocacy Leadership by Top Veterans Organizations

- **VFW Legislator of the Year Award** presented by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of Minnesota, 2008
- **Certificate of Appreciation** presented by Disabled American Veterans (DAV), 2008
- **Medal of Merit** presented by Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV), 2010
- **Silver Helmet Congressional Award** presented by American Veterans (AMVETS), 2010
- **Legislator of the Year Award** presented by National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NAVCSO), 2010
- **Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Support** presented by United States Navy, 2011
- **Certificate of Life Membership** presented by The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA), 2011
- **Award of Merit** presented by The Military Coalition, 2011
- **G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Eagle Award** presented by the Enlisted Association of The National Guard the United States (EANGUS), 2012
- **Legislation Recognition Award** presented by Blinded Veteran Association (BVA), 2012
- **Certificate of Appreciation** presented by United States Army War College, 2012
- **Inspirational Leadership Award** presented by Military Order of Purple Heart (MOPH), 2012
- **National Legislative Advocacy Awardees** presented by Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), 2012
- **L. Mendel Rivers Award of Excellence** presented by the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA), 2013
- **Certificate of Appreciation** presented by Mankato Disabled American Veterans Chapter 10, 2013
- **Congressional Leadership Award** presented by Disabled American Veterans (DAV), 2014
- **Colonel Arthur T. Marix Congressional Leadership Award** presented by Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), 2014
- **Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony "Honoring Service and Preserving History"** presented by U.S. Army Women's Foundation, 2014
- **Charles Dick Medal of Merit** presented by National Guard Association of the United States, 2014
- **Commendation** presented by Minnesota Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, endorsing the Colonel Arthur T. Marix Congressional Leadership Award, 2014
- **Veterans Hearing Health Champion Award** presented by the International Hearing Society, 2015
- **Legislator of the Year** presented by HillVets, 2015
- **National Legislative Advocacy Award** presented by the Association of United States Navy, 2016
- **Pinnacle Award** presented by the Fleet Reserve Association, 2016
- **Reserve Officer Association Honorary Membership**, presented March 2016

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
233 Cannon H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Tim Walz for House Veteran Affairs Committee Ranking Member

Dear Madame Leader Pelosi,

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), we strongly urge you to support Congressman Tim Walz as the next Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs (HVAC).

AUSN, the premier advocate for our nation's sailors both active and retired and their families recognizes the importance of our partnership with the HVAC Ranking Member. The Ranking Member of this Committee is a critical partner of our organization, ensuring bipartisan cooperation, legislation and solutions to meet out mutual goals. Therefore, it is important to AUSN that you support and select the most qualified Member of the Committee to serve as its Ranking Member.

As a retired Command Sergeant Major, Congressman Walz truly understands the needs of our Nations Veterans. Congressman Walz, having served for 24 years in the Army National Guard, is the highest ranking enlisted service member to ever serve in Congress and his military experience has and will continue to significantly enhance the Democratic caucus's contributions to this Committee. He has been intimately involved in helping pass legislation to improve care to wounded veterans, to help veterans seeking employment after they leave the service, and to eliminate the red tape that veterans must navigate in order to receive their benefits, among many other notable accomplishments.

AUSN has always been able to count on Mr. Walz to provide thoughtful questions and proactive engagement while serving on the Committee. This past year, for the second time AUSN awarded Congressman Walz with the association's National Legislative Advocacy Award for his superb leadership in ensuring that our Veterans have a strong and powerful voice in the United States Congress. Representative Walz has tirelessly advocated for the continued change of culture at the Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition, his introduction of: H.R. 1384, the Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act; and H.R. 4124, the Support America's Armed Forces Reserve Component Retirees Act of 2015, have been vital towards raising public awareness of the needs of our Nation's greatest assets, our Veterans. His actions have made an outstanding difference for our Navy Veterans and the United States as a whole. Congressman Walz's initiative and dedication to duty reflected credit upon himself and were in keeping with AUSN's highest traditions.

AUSN strongly encourages you to support Mr. Walz for Ranking Member of HVAC. We believe that he is the most qualified candidate for the job.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Little
Director of Legislative Affairs
Association of the United States Navy

CDR Bill Manofsky, USN (ret)
V.P. of Legislative Affairs
Association of the United States Navy