

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 9, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001. As we prepare to observe that somber milestone and remember the nearly three thousand lives taken that fateful day, we also honor the more than 2.7 million men and women who have voluntarily served in the United States Armed Forces over the past two decades of conflict and sacrifice in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). On behalf of those still fighting violent extremism around the world, our fellow veterans, military families, and supporters we, twenty-five military veterans who comprise the For Country Caucus, request a meeting with you to discuss the vital importance of *H.R. 1115* and *S. 535*, the *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act*.

Enacted in 2017 with unanimous support from both Chambers, *H.R. 873, the Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act* authorized the creation of a Global War on Terrorism Memorial and a foundation to oversee funding and construction of the project. Passage and enactment of the *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act* is the final step needed to authorize construction of the memorial on the National Mall. Led by Army veteran Congressman Jason Crow (D-CO) and Marine Corps veteran Congressman Mike Gallagher (R-WI) in the House and Army veteran Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) and Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH) in the Senate, this effort to honor the service of American service members and their families has earned broad bipartisan support in both chambers. Since our last correspondence, this legislation has gained a total of 179 House and Senate cosponsors.

In June, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on the *Global War on Terrorism Location Act* during which Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) and For Country Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME), offered testimony about the personal significance of this memorial to GWOT veterans and their families. With the significant bipartisan support in the House, we are eagerly awaiting consideration from the House Natural Resources Committee. We strongly believe that White House leadership indicating your support of honoring our GWOT veterans with a memorial on The National Reserve would ensure this legislation's prompt passage into law.

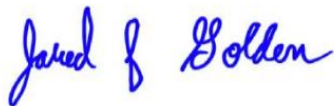
As the United States withdraws troops from Afghanistan, it is more urgent than ever that we offer our nation's veterans, servicemembers, and their families a place to heal and reflect. It is equally important that we offer Americans a place to better understand the multiple generations of service members who

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have served our country during this conflict. The significance of this effort has been echoed by a growing number of veterans and other non-profit organizations, including The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, National Military Family Association, Student Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Team Rubicon, With Honor Action, and many others.

We appreciate your continued support for our veterans, servicemembers, and their families as well as your leadership in helping establish the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans memorials. Twenty years after September 11th, now is the time to begin the establishment of a memorial for the thousands who served in America's longest war. We respectfully request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss this legislation and to ask for your help in making this memorial a near-term reality.

Respectfully,



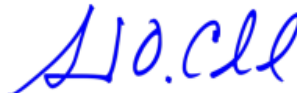
Jared F. Golden, USMC
Member of Congress



Van Taylor, USMC
Member of Congress



Jim Baird, USA
Member of Congress



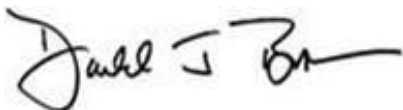
Salud Carbajal, USMC
Member of Congress



Jason Crow, USA
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher, USMC
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Don Bacon, USAF
Member of Congress



Conor Lamb, USMC
Member of Congress

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Jimmy Panetta, USN
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger, USAF
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Scott Franklin, USN
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Chrissy Houlahan, USAF
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Mikie Sherrill, USN
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August Pfluger, USAF
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Michael Waltz, USA
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Kaiiali'i Kahele, USAF
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Elaine G. Luria, USN
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Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D., USA
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Brian Mast, USA
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Jack Bergman, USMC
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