

Support the Wenstrup-Moulton NDAA amendment for a Title 36 Congressional Charter for Spirit of America

July 10, 2017

Dear Members of the House of Representatives,

We respectfully request your support of the bipartisan amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act being offered by Congressmen Brad Wenstrup and Seth Moulton. The amendment would establish a Title 36 Congressional Charter for Spirit of America.

Spirit of America is a privately-funded non-profit, non-partisan 501c3 organization that provides humanitarian and economic assistance in response to local needs identified by deployed U.S. troops and diplomats. Spirit of America is a way for American citizens to directly support the safety and success of our troops. Founded in 2003, Spirit of America has a 14-year track record. There is no other privately-funded 501c3 nonprofit that is working alongside deployed military personnel to provide donated assistance in support of their safety and mission success.

A Congressional Charter for Spirit of America will save lives of U.S. service members and improve national security by permanently removing legal ambiguity that frequently prevents U.S. military commanders from utilizing donated assistance from Spirit of America. The charter will enable the Department of Defense, at its discretion, to utilize donated assistance from Spirit of America to meet local needs in support of U.S. missions abroad.

The charter will not place any responsibilities or requirements on DOD, nor will it give Spirit of America any special rights or privileges. There is no impact whatsoever on the DOD budget and the charter will not exclude any other organization from supporting DOD missions.

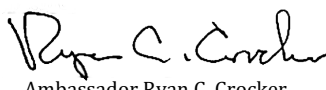
There are many precedents for the requested Spirit of America charter. There have been eight charters granted since the 1989 moratorium. And, five charters have been included in the NDAA since the moratorium. Spirit of America meets all the criteria for a Title 36 charter. Most important is that there is a compelling federal purpose for the Spirit of America charter: it will save lives, improve national security and connect our citizens to the military, at no cost to the government.

Thank you for your support and your service to the nation.

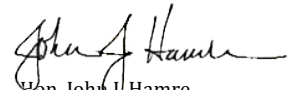


Hon. George P. Shultz
Former Secretary of State

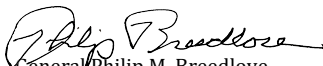
Hon. Jeh C. Johnson
Former Secy. Homeland Security



Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker



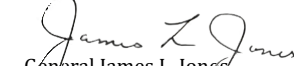
Hon. John J. Hamre
Former Deputy Secy. of Defense



General Philip M. Breedlove
U.S. Air Force, Retired



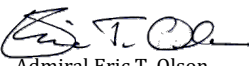
General Carter F. Ham
U.S. Army, Retired



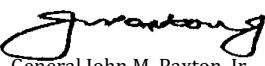
General James L. Jones
U.S. Marine Corps, Retired



General Stanley A. McChrystal
U.S. Army, Retired



Admiral Eric T. Olson
U.S. Navy, Retired



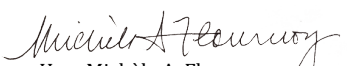
General John M. Paxton, Jr.
U.S. Marine Corps, Retired



Admiral James G. Stavridis
U.S. Navy, Retired



General Gordon R. Sullivan
U.S. Army, Retired



Hon. Michèle A. Flournoy
Former Undersecretary of Defense



Hon. James R. Locher, III
Former Asst. Secretary of Defense



Lt. General Charles T. Cleveland
U.S. Army, Retired



Rear Admiral Brian L. Losey
U.S. Navy, Retired

cc: all Members of the House of Representatives