



NGAUS

Reserve
Organization of
America



August 30, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker McCarthy, and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA), Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), Global Special Operations Forces Foundation (GSOFF), National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), Reserve Organization of America (ROA), and U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA) appreciate your leadership in the House of Representatives and Senate. We urge you to pass all of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations bills, and, in particular the Defense Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations (MilCon-VA) bills as soon as possible and at no less than the Senate Appropriations Committee-passed levels. We also ask that you provide additional funding commensurate with the threats facing our nation and to support adequate domestic spending which is critical to our service members, veterans, and national security.

As you know, our nation faces many threats, including responding to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Chinese aggression in the Pacific, Iranian and North Korean malign activities, the impact of inflation, and domestic response to floods and wildfires – which makes timely and sufficient appropriations all the more important. If a continuing resolution (CR) is required to avert a damaging government shutdown, it should be a short one.

CRs diminish national security and the capabilities of the Armed Forces (both Regular and Reserve Components) by hurting readiness, modernization, and quality of life programs – while negatively impacting our service members and their families. CRs do not permit the Armed Forces to make new starts or increase the level of investment in modernization priorities. Further, new family or service member housing projects cannot be started. At a time when recruitment presents a significant challenge across the Armed Forces, full and timely funding is necessary. CRs also hurt the defense industrial base, including small businesses, by adding uncertainty to the procurement and manufacturing processes. CRs are also detrimental to providing the best possible care to our nation's veterans. This includes potentially preventing new investments to enhance care for veterans, hire additional health professionals, and improve facilities.

We believe that a strong national defense begins at home. Our service members, their families, the Armed Forces, and our veterans benefit from on-time appropriate domestic spending which contributes to national security.

Once again, we urge you to swiftly pass all twelve appropriations bills, as soon as possible, and to add additional funding for national security priorities. This will provide the predictability and resources commensurate with the demonstrated need and the urgency that our national security challenges require, and our veterans have earned.

Thank you for your continued service to our nation and leadership in Congress.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Brown
General, U.S. Army, Retired
President and CEO
Association of the United States Army



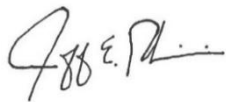
Daniel B. Reilly
Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force Retired
President, Enlisted Association of the National
Guard of the United States



Stuart Bradin
President & Chief Executive Officer
Global Special Operations Forces Foundation



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Executive Director
Reserve Organization of America



Cara Rinkoff
National Executive Director
U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association