The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N.W. ★ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 ★
(202) 263-2986 ★

June 17, 2014

Honorable Tim Kaine
SR-388 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kaine:

On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express support for your *Post 9/11 Welcome Home Resolution*, which recognizes Veterans Day 2014 as a special Welcome Home Commemoration for all who have served in the military since September 2001.

As the nation's largest veterans' service organization, founded in 1919 by veterans of the First World War, one of the reasons The American Legion exists is "*...To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars...*" With the U.S. war in Iraq complete and U.S. direct military operations in Afghanistan to end in 2014, it is entirely appropriate, as this resolution calls for, to encourage American communities across this great land to plan activities for Veterans Day 2014 to honor and support all who have served during these wars and to provide citizens of the United States an opportunity to present unified recognition of the service and sacrifices of Post-9/11 veterans. We as a nation are facing a crucial threshold in history with more than 1.2 million servicemembers soon to be discharged and entering the ranks of veterans. America must not fail to meet its commitment, as a grateful nation, to America's warriors returning home from war, and looking for jobs, education, health care, and economic opportunities worthy of their sacrifice. This commitment is a small price for our nation to pay for the freedom and safety we enjoy.

The American Legion applauds you for the priority you are placing on this nation's service members and veterans by sponsoring this *Post 9/11 Welcome Home Resolution*. This year marks an important milestone in the nation's history and we stand with you in your efforts to commemorate it; thereby, promoting an awareness of the services and contributions of Post-9/11 veterans. Thank you for your support for our nation's service members, veterans, and their families.

Respectfully,

DANIEL M. DELLINGER
National Commander