



April 16, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

I hope you and yours are safe and well. I sincerely thank you for the privilege of being your appointee to the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service. As you may be aware, on March 25, 2020, the Commission presented our final report to the Congress, President, and American people. Out of respect for your crushing schedule made even more impossible with the COVID-19 pandemic, I purposely refrained from attempting to meet with you to provide you a personal briefing on our results but stand ready to do so anytime you may wish.

After having served almost a decade each in the military, national, public service, and private sectors, one might think I would have experienced everything possible with all elements of service. However, the truth is by serving on this Commission, I learned so much more about the graciousness and generosity of the American people across our great Nation. The American spirit of service is abundantly clear today: in the face of a global pandemic, military service members, national service members, and public servants at all levels are working tirelessly to safeguard public health and help mitigate the social and economic fallout—without expectation of anything in return, receiving only the honor of serving another as their reward.

Over the past two and a half years, our Commission travelled to 42 cities in 22 states, held 14 public hearings with 68 panelists, conducted 11 public meetings and forums with 41 speakers, received 69 statements for the record, consulted with over 530 organizations, and reviewed nearly 4,000 public comments from which we developed 164 recommendations to enable Americans to be inspired and eager to serve. Our final report, *Inspired to Serve*, provides a bold vision and comprehensive plan to strengthen all forms of service to address critical needs, strengthen our democracy, and unite Americans in pursuit of the common good. It builds upon America's spirit of service to cultivate a widespread culture in which individuals of all backgrounds both expect and aspire to serve their community or Nation. As a national leader who has always supported military, national, and public service, I believe you will find our recommendations compelling, comprehensive, and worthy of action – especially in light of our current coronavirus crisis.

In late March, we provided three documents to your office: the Commission's Final Report, an Executive Summary; and a Legislative Annex. As part of our efforts, the Commission drafted a complete bill to implement our legislative recommendations. That bill has now been introduced by Rep. Jimmy Panetta and other bipartisan members of the For Country Caucus as H.R. 6415, the Inspired to Serve Act of 2020. Commission staff have been working with several House Committees including Armed Services, Oversight and Reform, and Education and Labor; and we

are pleased to report there is considerable interest in our recommendations and legislation among leaders in the Senate as well.

If you wish to receive a more detailed briefing, please have your staff contact me at my personal email of EdwarAllar@aol.com, or Mr. Jeff McNichols, our Director of Government Affairs, at Jeffrey.R.McNichols@inspire2serve.gov. Also, our staff would appreciate the opportunity to meet with members of your leadership team to discuss this important legislation and our opportunities to move forward together.

Again, Madam Speaker, thank you for the honor of being your appointee and serving on an outstanding, bipartisan Commission; and, witnessing first-hand the beauty and uniqueness of our Nation which Alexis de Tocqueville observed long ago.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy, our Nation truly needs and is blessed to have you. Thank you for all you are doing every second for all residents of America,

With Great Respect,



Edward T. Allard, III
Commissioner, National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

cc: Dr. Joseph Heck, Chairman, National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service