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6TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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December 8, 2014

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to express our pride and gratitude for our fr(b) (6) [redacted] -an American hero who served for 17 years with honor and dignity as a Navy SEAL. Mr.(b) (6) [redacted] distinguished military career includes participating in the rescue of Captain (b) (6) [redacted] from Somali pirates and carrying out the operation that killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden—the type of storied operational successes that define the American military's might and effectiveness.

Mr.(b) (6) [redacted] account of the bin Laden raid reaffirms the ethos and professionalism with which our Special Forces conduct themselves daily, risking life and limb often without gratitude or appreciation in order to complete the mission assigned to them. The bin Laden mission in particular proved extremely dangerous, but was carried out with precision and expertise. Its success helped bring closure to the thousands of Americans who lost friends and loved ones on September 11, 2001, united our country in solidarity with the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, and removed a grave threat to U.S. and global security.

As Mr. (b) (6) [redacted] has selflessly spoken to us about, the U.S. government must remain firmly committed to ensuring our military and warfighters have the tools and resources necessary to experience continued success on the battlefield. We must never take for granted the daily sacrifices our soldiers make to defend the pillars of freedom and liberty that define this great nation. Mr. (b) (6) [redacted] s advocacy on behalf of those who continue to take the fight to our enemies has been commendable.

We hope you join us in thanking Mr(b) (6) [redacted] and all who serve for their selfless sacrifice, bravery, and dedication to the protecting the American people, our homeland, and our very way of life.

Very truly yours,

PETER J. ROSKAM
Member of Congress

KEVIN CRAMER
Member of Congress

VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress

THOMAS J. ROONEY
Member of Congress

FL 17

cc: Ashton Carter, Secretary of Defense Designate, Department of Defense

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The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

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