



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

MILITARY DEPARTMENT
360 BROAD STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105-3795

February 13, 2019

Senator Bob Duff, Co-Chair
Representative Edwin Vargas, Co-Chair
Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 1000
Hartford, CT 06106

IN RE: Confirmation of Thomas J. Saadi, Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs

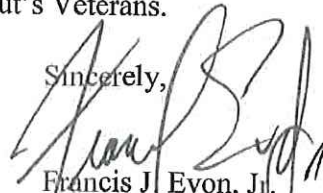
Dear Senator Duff, Representative Vargas and Members of the Nominations Committee:

I write in support of Mr. Thomas J. Saadi's confirmation as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs. As Connecticut's Adjutant General, and as a fellow service member and veteran, I have had the distinct fortune of working with Tom for many years. Before accepting a position with the Department of Veterans Affairs, he worked as Assistant Attorney General (2000-2015), where he Co-Chaired the Attorney General's Veterans and Service Members Advisory Response Team, always finding the time to address veteran issues despite being extremely busy with complex legal matters. Your confirmation of Tom will enable him to continue to successfully and ardently "serve those who served."

Since joining the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs in 2015, I witnessed firsthand the level of hard work, dedication, and personal attention Tom exudes while advocating, providing care and delivering services to our states' veterans. While previously serving as Commissioner, he updated Veterans' Affairs programs and policies to modernize practices across the full spectrum of services the department provides, including the transitioning of the Department's Healthcare Center to provide Skilled Nursing Care, which better serves a larger number of Connecticut veterans. He also spearheaded infrastructure upgrades at the Rocky Hill Campus and our Veterans Cemetery by leveraging state matching funds to secure millions in federal dollars. Tom actively developed partnerships with other state agencies, community based non-profits and Veteran Service Organizations to enhance veterans programs and services without additional cost to the state.

Commissioner Saadi's demonstrated skill, experience, knowledge of state government and his unwavering commitment to veterans makes him an ideal candidate to continue serving as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs. As the commander of 5,000 members of the Connecticut National Guard, the largest generating source of veterans within the state, I am certain that Commissioner Saadi will continue to provide outstanding service to all of Connecticut's Veterans.

Sincerely,



Francis J. Evon, Jr.
Major General
The Adjutant General