

Fritz, Wendy

From: Kathleen Shemeley <pow.mia.ctfmn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 10:09 PM
To: extestimony
Subject: In support of Thomas J. Saadi's confirmation as the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs
Attachments: In support of Thomas J. Saadi's confirmation as the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.pdf

Senator Duff and Representative Vargas,

I have attached a PDF file with my statement in support of Thomas J. Saadi's confirmation as the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs. If you have any difficulty opening the document please contact me.

Thank you.

Kathleen Shemeley
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860 355-2567



Prisoner of War/Missing in Action CT Forget-Me-Nots, Inc.

February 5, 2019

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Senator Bob Duff and Representative Edwin Vargas, Co-Chairmen
Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
LOB Room 1000
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: In support of Thomas J. Saadi's confirmation as the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs

I have had many opportunities during the past several years to attend veteran ceremonies and programs where Commissioner Thomas Saadi has been present as a speaker, as master of ceremony, or as a veteran. I specifically remember when Tom Saadi was the Master of Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Rogers Park in Danbury on May 31, 2009 when the notation of Remains Returned was added for POW/MIA Cmdr. Lee Cole. I was very impressed with his professionalism, knowledge of the issue, and his respect for POW/MIA families. Since then, I have spoken with him at numerous Memorial Day parades and veteran ceremonies in Danbury. Tom Saadi has worked with his fellow veterans and has been very supportive of the area veteran organizations. He is always very approachable and listens intently to concerns.

For the past two years he has joined with veterans, concerned citizens, and POW/MIA family members at our annual outdoor POW/MIA Bell Ringing Ceremony in January. I truly admire a busy public official who takes the time to attend a ceremony because of his genuine concern for Connecticut's POW/MIA families. Tom doesn't require a formal invitation but instead responds to a general announcement or press release.

Connecticut is very fortunate to have an articulate, professional, sincere, knowledgeable, and compassionate military officer to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs. Given his extensive experience conversing with, working with, and responding to our veterans as well as to his constituents in Danbury, I encourage you to confirm Thomas J. Saadi as our Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Shemeley".

Kathleen Shemeley

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