

RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

July 18, 2013

Commander Robert Griffith, USNR (Ret.)
2190 Lake Shore Circle
Arlington Heights, IL 60004-7201

Dear Commander Griffith:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the military hand salute. I appreciate hearing from you.

In 2008, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the National Defense Authorization Act for the Fiscal Year 2008 (NDAA FY08). This Act included a provision which authorizes active duty members and veterans of the Armed Services of the United States who are present at certain events, but not in uniform, to render the military salute during prescribed occasions. I supported this provision.

Our nation's service men and women, and the veterans who preceded them, deserve our utmost respect and gratitude. Selflessly, these brave souls put country before self, and too many paid an unthinkable price either with their life, or through injury. It is right and fitting that as one simple sign of gratitude, we permit these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines to salute the flag that they defended so impressively.

I commend your efforts to promote this provision of our laws. Thank you again for contacting me. Please feel free to keep in touch in the future.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

RJD/nd