



March 27, 2017

The Honorable Mike Gallagher
U.S. House of Representatives
510 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Gallagher:

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) and our more than 425,000 members are pleased to offer our strong support for the *Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act* (H.R. 873).

As of March 27, 2017, 6,899 service members have given their lives for our nation in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other post-9/11 theaters of conflict. The time has come for our nation to honor the sacrifice of these fallen troops, servicemembers and their families who have served our nation's longest war with a memorial on the National Mall. A monument gives families and veterans a place to gather and mourn, and it gives the nation an enduring reminder of the heroism of our military and the sacrifices made.

A new generation of veterans should not wait many years to see a memorial in their honor, as those who served in Vietnam, Korea, and World War II were forced to do. IAVA believes that H.R. 873 is a meaningful and significant first step to address this issue, and we ask Congress to swiftly pass this legislation into law.

If you have any questions, please contact me at thomas@iava.org.

Sincerely,

Tom Porter
Legislative Director
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America