



Air Force Association

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An Independent Nonprofit Aerospace Organization

Mark Barrett
Major General, USAF (Ret)
Executive Vice President

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The Honorable Niki Tsongas
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Tsongas,

On behalf of the Air Force Association (AFA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization representing approximately 95,000 current and former Airmen and their families, I am writing to express our sincere thanks for your leadership in sponsoring H.R. 632, the U.S. Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society Recognition Act of 2015. This bill will award the Congressional Gold Medal to the U.S. Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society and its members for their heroic actions in time of war.

Formed in 1964, the society is comprised of air crew members who were forced to bail out of their aircraft over enemy-controlled territory. Although capture by enemy forces was a very real possibility, through bravery and tenacity, these airmen were able to escape enemy territory and evade capture. Some made it with the help of local resistance movements and other foreign nationals.

Many do not realize the dangers air crew members face when flying into combat zones. Therefore, a Congressional Gold Medal would be appropriate recognition for those who have had to evade capture and make many personal sacrifices for the defense of this nation. Thank you again for spearheading this effort.

Sincerely,

Mark Barrett
Executive Vice President