



Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C.

Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
US Senate
Washington D.C.

Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Whip
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C.

Honorable Richard Durbin
Senate Minority Whip
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C.

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

Honorable Steve Scalise
House Minority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

Re: Lack of funding to pay our men and women of the United States Coast Guard

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy, Whip Thune, Whip Hoyer, Whip Durbin, Whip Scalise:

On behalf of Sea Service Family, Foundation and our 50,000 members and supporters we are writing your offices today to plead with you to take action on legislation that has been introduced by your colleagues and supported in a bipartisan manner by both Republicans and Democrats to ensure that the Coast Guard members receive a paycheck.

Today, for the first time the Coast Guard is going without a paycheck. The men and women of our military should never have their paychecks held because of political disagreements. When it comes to bipartisanship our military members know nothing about the sides of the aisle you are sitting on, they are there to defend you and the American people at all cost. This is something the Coast Guard has been doing since 1775. Even as the shut down has continued the men and women of our Coast Guard have stood the watch and consistently have assisted the American

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people in preventing drugs from entering our country, providing rescues to boaters during the holiday season, and have even gone to the border to provide medical assistance for the issues that are happening there, as well. Not one time during this shut down has the Coast Guard said we cannot do that because we are not being funded. However today they are being forced to say they cannot pay their bills because they are not being paid.

Yesterday I had the honor of doing an interview with a Coast Guard spouse who helped establish a food bank at Training Center Cape May New Jersey where they have worked with the community to provide more than 50k in groceries and necessities to the members of the Coast Guard. While this sounds amazing and the efforts are there to support the people that does not take away the shame in the eyes of these families as they shopped the food bank and the guilt that they felt in doing so. Our federal government has let down the members of our Coast Guard. The leaders that we have elected to protect us while we are protecting the US has forgotten us. The President of the United States has forgotten us. We say that because he talks of this grand vacation that the government employees are taking during this furlough, but the Coast Guard is not doing that. The Coast Guard is continuing to guard and protect our nation without any pay in sight.

We are writing you today to appeal to the leadership of the United States government. We are writing you because since the Christmas holiday started and we realized the Coast Guard would not be receiving a paycheck we have helped distribute over 400k letters to members of Congress. We are asking to have them pass the Pay Our Coast Guard Act. Since we have asked to have this legislation introduced and passed we are excited that Senator John Thune has introduced this legislation. We commend him and thank him tremendously for doing so. But we also have disgust that it has been stalled. Companion legislation has been introduced on the House side with HR 367 by Congressman DeFazio, the chairman of the committee that oversees the Coast Guard.

All of this legislation has bipartisan support from both sides of the aisle from the most Junior members of congress to the most Senior members. We have sent letters of support for these legislations signed by 32 National Veteran Service Organizations to your offices as well as those that introduced this pleading to have this passed. We are again writing your office and asking that you support this legislation so that we can ensure that the members of our Coast Guard can get paid.

We have also sent communications to the White House, speaking with the domestic policy office, legislation office, and military office asking if they would also support this legislation. Those requests have gone unanswered.

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If there is anything in this nation that is left that is bipartisan it should be the military and ensuring they receive a paycheck. I can't think of anything more important than that when we are talking about protecting our country.

I am once again attaching the letters of support, asking that you listen to their 6.5 million members in supporting paying the US Coast Guard. The men and women of the Coast Guard need you. We need your leadership.

Please don't make them wait any longer to be paid.

We are not asking either side to give in on your talks about the wall. You will need to work that out on your own. All we are asking, again, is that you come together long enough to ensure that the men and women of our Coast Guard receive a paycheck.

Very Respectfully,

Michael Joseph Little
Executive Director / Chairman
Sea Service Family, Foundation