March 15, 2017

The Honorable Scott Peters
U.S. House of Representatives
1122 Longworth Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Peters:

On behalf of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) which represents the interests of over 400,000 enlisted men and women of the Army and Air National Guard, I would like to offer support for H.R. 1379, to extend one-hundred-percent Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility to all Purple Heart recipients.

Unfortunately, only those that serve 36 months or more on active duty, or are medically retired, receive one hundred percent of the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit. EANGUS is particularly concerned that current law omits many Purple Heart recipients that deployed with a Reserves unit because they were activated for less than three years. Any Servicemember that is not medically retired and served fewer than 36 months receives only a prorated portion of the education benefit, and we feel that this is unfair.

Our membership stands with you and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and believes that any Purple Heart recipient should receive the entire Post-9/11 GI Bill. H.R. 1379, if passed by the 115th Congress and signed into law, would make this a reality.

Thank you for your hard work to support the active and reserve components, Veterans, and family members. EANGUS stands ready to work with you and your staff to make sure this important, timely bill is signed into law.

Sincerely,

Frank Yoakum

Sergeant Major, US Army (retired)
Executive Director