

August 8, 2024

To: The Residents of PA-District 5

**Reflecting on Stolen Valor Accusations Towards Governor Waltz**

I was utterly terrified and shocked to learn of the massive and now almost legendary charges and doubts regarding Vice President Harris' selected campaign running mate Governor Tim Waltz of Minnesota, official military record while serving in the Minnesota Army National Guard. I did not take the accusations lightly because I am a soldier and veteran who started soldiering on 9/11 at 2:14 PM when I signed my Initial Enlistment Contract. Since service members make up only 1% of the population, I am also concerned about charges of stolen valor since I know how important credibility is to the American people. I understand how easy it is for people outside of the military to misinterpret, distort, and quite honestly, simply tell the tale incorrectly.

This, however, is different; soldiers, guardsmen, those who have taken the oath, deployed, served in the United States, suffered injuries, etc. They are accusing this governor of having stolen valor, and their testimony is supported by their own views and experiences. What could be the reason for making such accusations? He is now retired from the Army and has advanced in his political career. This worries me. When orders drop to fly, would a senior enlisted man retire and leave subordinate commanders and privates to fend for themselves and figure it out? This is just unfathomable to my brother, SFC DeV Vaughn, and me who deployed together during Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003-2004).

I hope the rumors are unfounded. I sincerely hope that those of us who have sworn allegiance and carried it through have not been corrupted by a vile concoction of poisonous ambition and leadership. I hope that our young warriors, some of whom have sacrificed everything, will be able to look up to senior leadership—retired or active—and have faith in our capacity for leadership. Above all, I hope this horrifying and tainting event doesn't affect recruitment, dedication, or our standing as a respectable organization that keeps its promise, looks out for one another and holds a promising future.

Respectfully,



Alfe Goodwin  
Candidate for U.S. Congress, PA-5th District