Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2021

Major General Timothy P. Williams
The Adjunct General of Virginia
8000 Jefferson Davis Highway, Building 430
Richmond, VA 23297

Dear Major General Timothy P. Williams:

It is with great pride that we commend the Virginia National Guard for their swift and exemplary deployment in the aftermath of the deadly assault on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. The immediate deployment of the Quick Reaction Force, and the supplemental deployment of thousands of citizen-soldiers over the following days, showed the depth of the Commonwealth's Guardians' preparedness and willingness to defend our democracy. Thousands of our friends and neighbors left their jobs and loved ones behind, not knowing the length of their mission nor the impact they would have in our nation's history, because they were called to serve.

This ongoing mission is just the latest chapter in the storied history of the Virginia National Guard. For over 400 years, Virginians have stepped up to defend our country and our democracy. In the early days of this year, when the peaceful transfer of power was threatened, National Guardsmen from the Fourth and Seventh Congressional Districts, and indeed from across the Commonwealth, traveled to Washington, D.C. to ensure the safe inauguration of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Vice President Kamala D. Harris.

To memorialize the crucial service of the members of the Virginia National Guard in the first weeks of this year, in addition to their typical deployments and assisting with the COVID-19 response, we have each submitted statements into the Congressional Record. The Congressional Record has been published in its current form since 1873, and its history stretches back to the Annals of Congress, first published in 1789. By placing the enclosed statements in the Congressional Record, it is our sincere hope that future generations will share our respect and gratitude for the dedication and bravery of the Virginia National Guard.

The Virginia National Guard has gone above and beyond "one weekend a month, two weeks a year," to serve whenever, wherever – no matter the mission. We will never forget the steadfast courage and selfless service of our fellow Virginians. We are truly honored to represent the brave citizen-soldiers of the Virginia National Guard.

Sincerely,

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress