

July 30, 2007

The Honorable Thelma Drake  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Drake:

On behalf of the 368,000 members of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), I am writing to thank you for your leadership in championing H.R. 3026, the "Military Spouses Memorial Act of 2007. MOAA is honored to support your provision to authorize a military spouse monument in the Washington, D.C. area.

Spouses have always answered the call of duty along side their military member. They have one of the toughest jobs in the family and in the military, so often putting their loved ones' and their country's needs ahead of their own. MOAA is extremely pleased that you have introduced this important provision. We also thank the two dynamic and dedicated spouses, Karie Darga and Nicole Alcorn for bringing their vision and dream of a permanent memorial for all military spouses and surviving spouses, across all generations, to your attention.

This monument would present a defining moment in history where past, present and future generations join ranks to leave a legacy of hope and inspiration for military spouses and their families. Military spouses will no longer be 'unsung heroes' but take their rightful place as a visible, formidable partner in maintaining and sustaining a strong military force and national defense.

Thank you again for introducing this important legislation and your personal commitment to military spouses. MOAA looks forward to working closely with you and partnering with the Military Spouse Legacy Association, Inc. to make this monument a reality.

Sincerely, *with all the best!*  
*Norbert Ryan*

*Thank you for your superb leadership!*