

Happy Friday, IAVA Cavalry!



This week, the political landscape for veterans has been marked by Vice President Kamala Harris' selection of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, a former National Guard member, as her running mate. On the opposing ticket, former President Donald Trump chose JD Vance, a former Marine and current senator, highlighting the prominence of veterans in this election cycle.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Join us for a riveting discussion on democracy's future with Joe Flanigan and Allison Jaslow in Lansing and Ann Arbor. Engage with veterans, academics, and officials as we explore the impact of anti-democracy movements on our society.

The evening will hold impactful conversation and dialogue with fellow veterans and Americans about what is at stake this election season – as well as [see links](#)

Can't go? Or know someone who would like to go? Invite them! This event is NOT restricted to veterans!!

IAVA & democracyFIRST Present: Pints & Patriotism - ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN AUGUST 15, 2024 5 - 6:30 PM EST

[RSVP FOR PINTS & PATRIOTISM - ANN ARBOR](#)

IAVA & democracyFIRST Present: Pints & Patriotism - LANSING, MICHIGAN

ELLISON BREWERY + SPIRITS AUGUST 16, 2024 5 - 6:30 PM EST
4900 DAWN AVE
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

[RSVP FOR PINTS & PATRIOTISM - LANSING](#)



IAVA AUMF Cavalry Briefing

VIRTUAL - ZOOM AUGUST 21, 2024 1-2 PM EST
12-1 PM CST
11A - 12P MST
10-11 AM PST

Join us for a 'lunchtime' briefing from both Senator Kaine & Senator Young's offices, of the state of play of the Authorization for Use of Military Force. Find out how you can help by logging in!

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AUGUST CAVALRY SPOTLIGHT



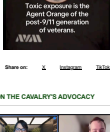
This month's Cavalry Spotlight is Michael Mateo. Michael lives in Brooklyn, NY. He served in the Coast Guard on active duty from 2013 - 2019 and served in the Coast Guard Reserves from 2019 - 2023. His Cavalry journey started back in March of 2020. The very last thing he did, before the world shut down for COVID-19, was walk the halls of Congress, and advocate for veterans. As soon as he was able to engage again post- COVID, he was back in the halls of Congress.

Michael participated in the inaugural IAVA Fellowship, lending a hand in taking IAVA Cavalry leadership to the next level. Outside of Cavalry activities, Michael is the founder and CEO of Personal Protective Concepts (PPC) and co-founder of the Safe Harbor Alliance. His organization, PPC, is dedicated to empowering communities through practical safety education and training. His passion flows through everything he does.

Stay tuned later this month for a blog from Michael.

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UPDATES ON THE CAVALRY'S ADVOCACY



This week IAVA's newest Cavalry cohort continued advocacy with hill meetings as Congress began the August recess. Meeting with Sen. Klobuchar and Rep. Greenley, Cavalry advocates discussed IAVA's priorities for the 118th Congress. IAVA policy and advocacy staff will continue to schedule meetings with congressional staff through the recess as several important issues are up for debate when Congress reconvenes in September. The most pressing issues related to veterans advocacy for the remainder of this Congress will be related to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), The Elizabeth Cole Act, and the VA's reported \$15 Billion shortfall.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



IAVA issued a [statement](#) regarding the inclusion of a Post-9/11 veteran on Harris's presidential ticket in response to their call.

The following is a statement from the CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Allison Jaslow, on Vice President Kamala Harris' decision to add Governor, retired US Army National Guardsman and former Command Sergeant Major, Tim Walz to the Democratic Party's Presidential ticket as her future Vice President.

"I've said it before, and I'll say it again: The Post-9/11 generation of veterans is ascendant in America today," said Jaslow. "We applaud Vice President Harris for heeding our call and choosing a post-9/11 veteran to join her in her candidacy to be Commander-in-Chief. And notably, someone who served in, and led troops, in the enlisted ranks."

"Harris will be well-served by having Governor Walz at her side as Commander-in-Chief, given the perilous times that we're living in," Jaslow continued. "Additionally, Walz's leadership on behalf of his fellow veterans when he was in the U.S. House of Representatives is notable at a time when our all-volunteer force continues to struggle to recruit. How we care for our veterans is as important to our national security as how we care for our troops and Walz has a record to prove that he understands that imperative."

Onward and Upward, Cavalry!

