

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES

FOUNDED 1899



BRIAN J. DUFFY
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

VFW MEMORIAL BUILDING
200 MARYLAND AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002-5799

January 9, 2017

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

It is my honor as Commander-in-Chief of nearly 1.7 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and our Auxiliary to announce your selection to receive the 2017 VFW Congressional Award.

Your support of veterans, service members, their families, and national security programs continues to strengthen America. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, you authored a major overhaul of our nation's intelligence community, and went on to chair the newly created Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Your presence and leadership on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Intelligence, also ensured our country remained safe with increased defense funding to take the fight to the enemy, while keeping strong sanctions on Iran, and forging a bipartisan coalition that ended the 16-day government shutdown in 2013. You also took care of the troops and their families through the passage of critical quality of life programs, such as extended TRICARE coverage, military pay increases, and more community-based outpatient clinics. And your record of not missing a Senate vote in 19 years—more than 6,000 consecutive votes—to include suffering most recently from a broken ankle, is as remarkable as it is a testament to your faithful and dedicated service to our great country and your beloved State of Maine.

Should you agree to accept our award, I would like to make the presentation at our VFW Legislative Reception at 6:15 p.m., March 1, 2017, inside a congressional room still to be determined on Capitol Hill. I would appreciate hearing you will accept the award before Feb. 1. Upon your acceptance, VFW Adjutant General and Washington Office Executive Director Bob Wallace will coordinate presentation details with your staff. He can be reached at (202) 608-8361 or by email at bwallace@vfw.org. Attached for your information is a list of previous recipients.

Congratulations on your selection, and thank you for all you have and continue to do for veterans, our servicemen and women, their families, and for America.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian J. Duffy".

BRIAN J. DUFFY
Commander-in-Chief