Conference Report: FY 2019 Military Construction & VA Appropriations Bill

\$98.1B IN DISCRETIONARY FUNDING - \$5.3B ABOVE FY18

CARING FOR OUR VETERANS

- Totals \$86.5B in discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, an increase of
 \$5B above the FY18 enacted level the largest dollar amount in history for the VA
- Funds VA medical care at \$72.3B providing for 7M patients to be treated in FY19, including:
 - \$8.6B for mental health care services
- \$400M for opioid abuse prevention
- \$206M for suicide prevention outreach
- \$270M for rural veterans health initiatives
- Includes a \$1.75B increase over the advance funding already provided for ongoing care, including existing programs and MISSION Act programs like community care, caregivers, and other medical services (such as improved access to organ transplants)
- Ensures funding (\$1.1B) to modernize the VA's electronic health record system to provide seamless care to veterans as they transition from military service
- Speeds up claim processing for more than 450K veterans who are waiting for the compensation they deserve

IMPROVING VA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Strengthens oversight and accountability to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used to best benefit our veterans by including several provisions to hold the VA accountable and address decisions that have wasted money and damaged trust, including:
 - Rigorous reporting on the status of VA claims processing
 - Implementing stronger oversight and limits on VA construction projects
 - Includes \$192M for the Inspector General, \$28M above FY18, to provide the resources needed to investigate the overwhelming number of allegations being reported

REBUILDING OUR MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Continues rebuilding infrastructure for our service members and their families with a total of \$10.3B for military construction projects, an increase of \$241M (2.4%) above the FY18 levels
- Provides funding for 174 military construction projects across the country and overseas –
 projects that strengthen our national security, enable our military to complete their missions
 successfully, and support our military families with quality schools, housing, and other services
- **Prioritizes construction in the U.S.** with over \$8B for infrastructure and facilities on military bases in the U.S. to support operations, training, housing and military families
- Fully funds family housing at \$1.6B \$173M above the FY18 enacted leveel
- Includes \$352M for the construction or alteration of new or existing military medical facilities, allowing for the care of 9.8M eligible beneficiaries, including wounded troops abroad
- Upgrades infrastructure needed for deterrence operations and unique training requirements to counter challenges posed by Russia and threats from the Middle East and Africa
- Includes \$100M for enhancing anti-terrorism efforts, Force protection, and safety on military installations