

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
MILITARY STAFF - OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Joint Force Headquarters, Camp Fogarty
2841 South County Trail, Bldg. 330
East Greenwich, RI 02818-1728



Daniel J. McKee
Governor
MG Andrew J. Chevalier
Director

April 9, 2026

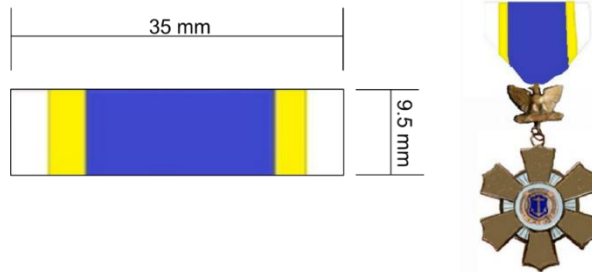
The Honorable Samuel A. Azzinaro, Chair
House Committee on Veterans Affairs
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: H8123 - Letter of Support

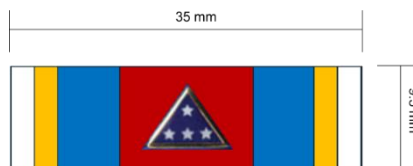
Dear Chairperson Azzinaro and Members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee:

I write in strong support of House Bill 8123, which amends R.I. Gen. Laws § 30-8-4 to create three awards to assist with recognizing our Rhode Island National Guard (RING) service members and those who support us.

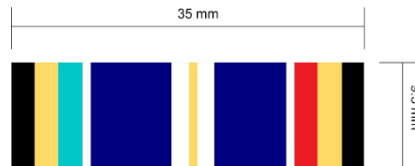
Legion of Merit (LOM): The Rhode Island LOM fills the gap between the Rhode Island Cross and the Rhode Island Star. The Cross recognizes “extraordinary heroism” whereas the Star recognizes “meritorious service.” The state LOM would be for “exceptionally meritorious conduct.” By having a higher level award, the Adjutant General would have an option to reward those whose service warrants it.



Military Funeral Honors (MFH) Ribbon: Military Funeral Honors represent one of the most solemn and sacred duties performed by our Soldiers and Airmen. The RING MFH Ribbon would recognize the importance of this duty and encourage service members to undertake this worthy task. Service members would be eligible for the ribbon upon completion of 100 funeral services (or a suitable number as determined by The Adjutant General).



State Partnership Program (SPP) Ribbon: The RING SPP Ribbon would be awarded to any Soldier or Airman of the Rhode Island National Guard who deploys anywhere outside the state of Rhode Island with a Bahamian or Timorese delegation in support of the SPP for a period of at least five continuous days. This ribbon highlights the importance of our partnership with The Bahamas and Timor L'Este and rewards those who mobilize in support of it.



Thank you for considering our letter of support and helping us better recognize those who do so much for our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. Chevalier
Major General
The Adjutant General