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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 6, 2015

**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and  
Land Forces

Subcommittee on Readiness

**HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**

Subcommittee on Conservation  
and Forestry

Subcommittee on Biotechnology,  
Horticulture, and Research

**HOUSE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy  
and Trade

Subcommittee on Contracting and  
Workforce

Dear President Stefanco,

I would like to take this opportunity to commend The College of St. Rose upon the dedication of the Battle Buddy Center. It is a privilege to have been given the opportunity to attend this event and present this flag, which was flown over the United States Capitol in commemoration of this event.

One of the greatest hardships that our service men and women face is that of returning home after lengthy overseas deployments. It is a critical responsibility of ours to provide these heroes with ways to effectively transition back to civilian life. I have been proud to support such successful programs as the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, various Wounded Warrior projects and events, and the establishment of St. Rose's new Battle Buddy Center. This venue will provide an important opportunity for veterans to gather, bond, and study upon leaving the service, providing a needed bridge between the camaraderie found in the United States Armed Services and civilian life at home.

I would like to specifically thank St. Rose President Carolyn J. Stefanco for her leadership in the establishment of this new resource. Having been personally deployed overseas numerous times, including four combat operations in Iraq, peacekeeping operations in Kosovo, and a humanitarian relief deployment to Haiti, I know firsthand that returning Soldiers, Airmen, and Marines will significantly benefit from the Battle Buddy Center. Additionally, I'd like to thank all that have supported this endeavor throughout its development, including recruiters and other members of the United States Armed Services, local community leaders and first responders, and, from my staff, my District Veterans' Director Jim Haggerty. Finally, this project could not have been completed without the financial support of the New York State Industries for the Disabled, represented here by President & CEO Ron Romano and Vice President of Business Development Andrew Grosso. Thank you all.

Again, I am honored to have been invited to this event and to be a small part of the establishment of the Battle Buddy Center. I look forward to continuing to work with you all to best serve the needs of our veterans. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should my assistance ever be required.

Sincerely,

Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress, NY-19