

## **National Security Medal Nomination and Supporting Documentation**

### **I. BIOGRAPHY**

Lindsey Graham has earned a reputation as a conservative problem-solver and one of the strongest proponents of a robust national defense. A frequent visitor to American troops stationed overseas for on-the-ground assessment, Graham has consistently pushed for outcomes in the War on Terror which protect our long-term national security interests. One leading conservative recently wrote that when it comes to defending America “[Lindsey] Graham has been right about more things on foreign policy for longer than just about anyone...if anyone has bragging rights on foreign policy, it is Graham.”

Graham is also a leader in cutting spending, reforming entitlements, and getting government out of the way so businesses can create jobs. One national conservative organization called him a Taxpayer Hero who puts “the interests of the taxpayer ahead of politics by consistently voting to cut wasteful spending, reduce the tax burden, and make government more accountable to taxpayers.”

Graham was elected to the United States Senate in 2002 and was re-elected in 2008, 2014, and 2020. He became the first person in South Carolina history to garner more than one million votes in the 2008 general election. Graham currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Prior to serving in the Senate, Graham was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1994, as the first Republican from the Third Congressional District of South Carolina since 1877.

Before being elected to the Congress, Graham compiled a distinguished record in the United States Air Force as he logged 6.5 years of service on active duty as an Air Force lawyer. From 1984 to 1988, he was assigned overseas and served at Rhein-Main Air Force Base in Germany. Upon leaving active duty Air Force in 1989, Graham joined the South Carolina Air National Guard where he served until 1995. During the first Gulf War in the early 90's, Graham was called to active duty and served state-side at McEntire Air National Guard Base as Staff Judge Advocate where he prepared members for deployment to the Gulf region. In 1995, Graham joined the United States Air Force Reserves. During American military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Graham put his experience in military law to use pulling numerous short-term Reserve duties in both countries over congressional breaks and holidays. Graham retired from the Air Force Reserves in June 2015 having served his country in uniform for 33 years. He retired at the rank of Colonel.

A native South Carolinian, Graham grew up in a blue collar family in the small town of Central where his parents ran a restaurant and pool hall. The first member of his family to go to college, Graham earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of South Carolina. He lives in Seneca, South Carolina, and is a member of the Corinth Baptist Church.

## **II. NOMINATION OF UNITED STATES SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY MEDAL**

Assistant to the President and National Security Advisor Robert C. O'Brien nominated United States Senator from South Carolina, Lindsey Graham, for his integral role in advocating for strong national security, military, and intelligence community programs and initiatives. Senator Graham has consistently demonstrated his commitment to being one of the strongest Congressional proponents for a robust national defense as demonstrated by his service and advocacy on the Senate Armed Services Committee, Budget Committee, Defense Appropriations Committee, Veterans Affairs Committee, and through his work to ensure domestic tranquility as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. As a United States Air Force and Air National Guard Veteran during more than 33 years of uniformed service, he has deployed to Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and has continued his direct support to deployed and deploying troops through official visits and legal services support.

## **III. CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY MEDAL TO UNITED STATES SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM**

United States Senator Lindsey Graham is honored for his exceptional contributions in furtherance of the national security of the United States of America through his example as a uniformed service member and as a Senator for South Carolina. Under his leadership as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and his service on the Defense Appropriations, Armed Services, Budget, State and Foreign Operations, and other committees, he has provided steadfast support of defense and intelligence community programs and initiatives during challenging times to ensure our nation was ready to stand strong against actual and potential adversaries. He is a frequent visitor to American troops stationed overseas, and has earned a reputation as one of the strongest proponents of a robust national defense. As a uniformed service member he has served with the United States Air Force and Air National Guard for more than 33 years, retiring as a Colonel, including service in Germany, Iraq and Afghanistan. His contributions to achieving peace through strength have been groundbreaking, and they reflect great credit on himself and the United States of America.