This letter is to announce my candidacy for KWVA National President to serve from June 25, 2022–June 2024. I am a Life Member (# LR35528) so therefore my dues are paid to present date. If elected, I promise to attend all called meetings and understand that two unexcused absences could result in my removal from office. I am releasing the KWVA application form for verification of eligible service years. I joined the US Army in 1982 and was Honorably discharged in 1989 as a Corporal. I worked as a Team Leader, Squad Leader and Platoon Sgt as an Indirect Fire Infantryman, Infantryman and Infantry Scout. After my Initial Infantry and AIT Training at Fort Benning Ga, I was stationed at Schofield Barracks Hawaii with the 25th Infantry Division (Light), 26th Infantry Division Massachusetts National Guard, and 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Garry Owens, Korea. I deployed to Australia, Japan, Korea, the Big Island of Hawaii and worked with soldiers from New Zealand, Korea, Japan, Australia and the Gurkha's based out of Hong Kong during my Army career. I am a recipient of the Korean Defense Service Medal and member of the VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, AUSA, DAV, 2nd ID Assn and 25th ID Assn.

After the military, I worked as a security officer for Westin and Marriott Hotels in Downtown Boston and Director of Security for Rachels Nightclub at the Marriott Long Wharf, Boston Ma. I spent over a decade on the United States Postal Service Boston. While working at the USPS, I attended UMass-Boston and obtained an Associate's Degree, 2 Bachelor of Arts Degrees, Master of Arts Degree, 2 Certificates of Advanced Graduate Studies, in 2 National Honor Societies, Deans List and was awarded the William Joiner Award for Excellence for Service to our Veterans.

In 1999, I joined the Korea Defense Veterans of America that spearheaded the movement for the Korean Defense Service Medal, became a KDVA National Officer and founded its only chapter which eventually became Korea War Veterans Association Chapter# 299 in 2004. I have been elected KWVA National President (2020-2022), National 1st Vice President (2018-2020), National 2nd Vice President (2016-2018), KWVA National Director for 2 terms (2005-2011). I was National Membership Chairman from 2005-2010, National Ceremonies Chairman 2005- 2008, coordinated the KWVA National Membership Meetings in Boston in 2011 and Orlando in 2021 and also started the KWVA Color Guard for ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. I also helped get 3 National bills passed into law, Korea Defense Service Medal (2002), KWVA Federal Charter (2008) and Omnibus Caregivers Bill (2010). Presently, I am KWVA National President and Social Media Coordinator. The KWVA Facebook Page which I started on 12-4-17 with 427 Likes, now has 61,000 Likes. The page brings the KWVA many new members, many donations and many people who buy KWVA products. I started the new KWVA Dog Tag Remembrance Program with Wreaths Across America, established the first KWVA Treasury of over \$1,000,000 dollars, and honorably represented the KWVA at hundreds of ceremonies and events all over America. Myself and our officers also visited our Wounded Warriors at Bethesda / Walter Reed under my leadership. I was on the Massachusetts Governors and Congressional Military and Veterans Advisory Committees. Myself and my wife were named Caregivers of the Year by Hope for the Warriors. I am happily married to my wife Maura who served in the US Navy and we have 2 children. My daughter Colleen has 3 children who bring us great joy as grandparents. My son Vincent was wounded in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division and has had 48 operations. I have a lot of experience locally and nationally in the KWVA and have been loyal and dedicated to the KWVA for over 20 years. My 3 Uncles and 2 cousins served in the Korean War Era. I believe I am worthy of reelection and need your Vote to keep the Korean War Legacy and its Aftermath alive.

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Suffry J. Barlen