

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Somerset County Democrats Veterans' Caucus Holds Ruck March to Highlight Veterans' Mental Health Crisis and Support Redondo Foundation

Hillsborough, NJ - May 28,2023

The Somerset County Democrats Veterans' Caucus organized a momentous 12-mile Ruck March through several communities in Somerset County on Sunday May 28,2023. Led by veterans Marco Alfonso (US Army), Pablo Orozco (USMC), and Adam Armahizer (USMC), the event aimed to bring attention to the critical mental health crisis affecting veterans while raising funds for the esteemed Redondo Foundation. Former congressman Tom Malinowski and numerous supporters joined the march, which commenced in Hillsborough, passed through Manville, Bridgewater, Somerville, and concluded in Raritan at the Basilone statue.

The Ruck March, an arduous physical challenge, symbolized the burdens that veterans carry in their daily lives, particularly the invisible wounds of war. By embarking on this demanding journey, the participants sought to raise awareness about the pressing mental health issues faced by veterans and their urgent need for comprehensive support and resources.

"The Veterans' Caucus is deeply committed to advocating for the well-being of our veterans," said Marco Alfonso, a former US Army servicemember. "Through events like this Ruck March, we hope to shed light on the mental health crisis affecting our veterans and ensure that they receive the care and support they deserve."

The event garnered support from various individuals and organizations, including former congressman Tom Malinowski, who has been a staunch advocate for veterans' rights and comprehensive mental health care. By participating in the Ruck March, Malinowski showed his unwavering dedication to standing alongside veterans in their pursuit of better mental health services.

"The mental health crisis among our veterans is a pressing issue that demands immediate attention," said former Congressman Tom Malinowski. "I am honored to march alongside these brave individuals and support the vital work of the Redondo Foundation in addressing the mental health needs of our veterans."

The Somerset County Democrats Veterans' Caucus chose to raise funds for the Redondo Foundation, a renowned organization that provides critical mental health support to veterans in

need. By channeling their efforts toward supporting the foundation, the caucus seeks to make a tangible impact on veterans' lives and contribute to the broader effort of creating a robust mental health support network for those who have served.

"Our collaboration with the Redondo Foundation represents our commitment to improving the lives of veterans struggling with mental health challenges," expressed Pablo Orozco, a former US Marine Corps servicemember. "The funds raised through this Ruck March will assist in providing essential resources to veterans and help bridge the gap in mental health services."

The Somerset County Democrats Veterans' Caucus extends its gratitude to all participants, supporters, and sponsors who contributed to the success of the Ruck March. Their collective efforts have raised awareness and funds to address the mental health crisis among veterans, laying the groundwork for future initiatives and advocacy to ensure no veteran is left behind.

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About Somerset County Democrats Veterans' Caucus:

The Somerset County Democrats Veterans' Caucus is a dedicated group of individuals within the Democratic Party who advocate for veterans' rights, support their mental health needs, and work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society for those who have served in the military.

About Redondo Foundation:

The Redondo Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to providing comprehensive mental health support and resources to veterans. Through various programs and initiatives, the foundation aims to address the mental health crisis among veterans and promote their overall well-being.

