FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2024

Washington, D.C. – Today, The Special Operations Association of America is proud to fully support Representatives Ross, Murphy, and Hudson's HR 8545, the Camp Lejeune Justice Act Technical Corrections Act.

Enacted in 2022 as part of the PACT Act, the original Camp Lejeune Justice Act allows veterans and civilians to file tort claims against the U.S. government for damages related to harm caused by exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina between August 1, 1953, to December 31, 1987. During this time, thousands of Servicemembers, their families, civilian workers, and personnel at Camp Lejeune used government-provided tap water that was contaminated with harmful chemicals, found at levels ranging from 240 to 3400 times the levels permitted by safety standards.

This toxic exposure from Camp Lejeune has been shown to increase the risk of cancers, such as renal cancer, multiple myeloma, leukemia, and more. It also likely raises the risk of Parkinson's disease, now presenting in Veterans, and adverse birth outcomes amongst their children, along with other negative health effects.

Unfortunately, there have been some unforeseen consequences in the implementation of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA). The Camp Lejeune Justice Act Technical Corrections Act addresses these issues and provides much needed relief to affected Veterans and their families by clarifying the right to jury trials for these claimants and establishing clear attorney fee's in line with DOJ standards. Further, this legislation extends the jurisdiction of CLJA cases in order to relieve the monumental backlog of Veterans' claims.

On behalf of our members, and all veterans battling with service-connected toxic exposure, the Special Operations Association of America is proud to endorse Representatives Ross, Murphy, and Hudson's HR 8545, the Camp Lejeune Justice Act Technical Corrections Act, and call upon their colleagues throughout the House and Senate to advance this critical legislation.