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Over 20 Veterans Service Organizations Endorse Camp Lejeune Fix; Veterans and Family Victims of Water Contamination Still Waiting for Justice

WASHINGTON, DC—With Veterans Day and the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps approaching, along with the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy's recent 250th Anniversaries, the Special Operations Association of America (SOAA) is calling on Congress to deliver justice to thousands of veterans and their families affected by toxic water contamination at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. More than 20 veteran service organizations (VSO) have endorsed the bipartisan and bicameral *Ensuring Justice for Camp Lejeune Victims Act of 2025*, HR 4145 and S. 907, and it is time for Congress to act.

"This is an important time to reflect on how we treat our veterans and their family members after their service," Daniel Elkins, Founder and President of the Special Operations Association of America (SOAA), said. "What happened to the victims of water contamination at Camp Lejeune is a stain on America's record. Congress took the first step to try to correct this, but everyone knows more must be done to ensure these veterans and families are afforded the justice they fought for. At SOAA, we believe in Keeping America Safe—both those at home, those serving, and those who have served. We owe it to America to keep the Camp Lejeune Marines safe."

Between 1953 and 1987, over a million people were exposed to the toxic water, including servicemembers, their family members, and civilian personnel at levels 240 – 3,400 times above safety standards. This led to negative health conditions, including many types of cancers, neurological diseases such as Parkinson's, adverse birth outcomes, and more. Veterans, their spouses, and their children have died from this toxic exposure, and many continue to die as they await the legal remedy Congress promised them.

Congress passed the *Camp Lejeune Justice Act* in 2022, which SOAA was proud to be the first VSO to endorse. Unfortunately, the law has not been implemented as Congress intended and a corrections bill is necessary. Representatives Greg Murphy, Deborah Ross, Richard Hudson, and Don Davis and Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Blumenthal introduced the bipartisan, bicameral *Ensuring Justice for Camp Lejeune Victims Act*, HR 4145 and S. 907, to remedy this. The bills clarify these veterans' right to jury trials, cap attorneys' fees to represent these victims, and extend court jurisdiction to relieve the logjam of cases.

"SOAA has been a critical advocate for Camp Lejeune veterans and families from the beginning, and momentum to help them keeps growing, with over 20 VSOs now calling on Congress to pass the *Ensuring Justice for Camp Lejeune Victims Act*," Representative Greg



Murphy, lead House sponsor, said. “For the sake of justice for those who have served our country, Congress must act on this legislation with a sense of urgency. As we honor our nation’s veterans and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Marine Corps, Congress must work together to deliver the justice we already promised—before it is too late.”

HR 4145 and S. 907 have been endorsed by: *the American Legion, AMVETS, Association of the U.S. Navy, Blinded Veterans Association, Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), Gold Star Wives, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Lejeune Empowered Advocacy for Widows, Marine Corps League, Marine Corps Reserve Association, Military Chaplains Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Moral Compass Federation, National Military Family Association, Non Commissioned Officers Association, Special Operations Association of America, Rolling Thunder, Inc., Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Vietnam Veterans of America, and more.*