

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Corker
Ranking Member
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

December 3, 2013

Dear Chairman Menendez & Ranking Member Corker:

General Colin Powell's letter of October 16, 2013 (attached), eloquently conveys considered, sound reasons why the United States should ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities. As retired military flag officers who have served in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, we respectfully add our strong support for U.S. ratification of this Convention. We understand that in the six (6) weeks elapsed since General Powell's letter; over one hundred more organizations and companies have added their names in support of this important treaty. We share General Powell's confidence that ratification will not compromise our nation's sovereignty; rather, it will enable the United States to maintain its leadership role in eliminating disability discrimination and in encouraging a more accessible world.

Equally important, ratification affords the newest generation of disabled U.S. veterans greater work, study, and travel opportunities abroad as countries follow the trail our nation has pioneered and establish their own accessible communities. Other countries already look to the Americans with Disabilities Act as a model statute and the model standard bearer for disability rights. Ratifying this international treaty preserves the United States' global leadership at the forefront of disability rights. Not ratifying this treaty separates the U.S. from the global platform that will improve the lives of many who labor life's challenges with disabilities.

We join in General Powell's petition, and urge strongly that the Senate provide its advice and consent for the United States to ratify the disabilities treaty at its earliest opportunity.

Attachment

Respectfully submitted,



ADM (ret) Steve Abbot



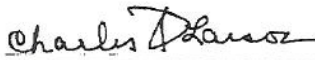
GEN (ret) Wesley K. Clark



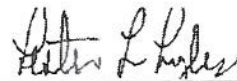
GEN (ret) Ronald Fogleman



ADM (ret) Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr.



ADM (ret) Charles R. Larson



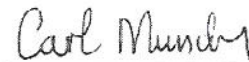
GEN (ret) Lester L. Lyles



GEN (ret) Robert Magnus



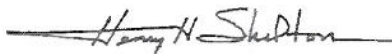
GEN (ret) Thomas S. Moorman, Jr.



GEN (ret) Carl E. Mundy, Jr.



ADM (ret) Joseph W. Prueher



GEN (ret) Henry H. Shelton



GEN (ret) Gordon R. Sullivan

Following is a list of supporters and their former military duties:

Admiral Steve Abbot, retired Navy 4-star, Rhodes Scholar, Deputy Commander, European Command; Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet (1996-98).

General Wesley K. Clark, retired Army 4-star, Rhodes Scholar, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (1997-2000); Commander in Chief, U.S. Southern Command (1996-97).

General Ronald R. Fogleman, retired Air Force 4-star, Chief of Staff (1994-97); Commander in Chief of U.S. Transcom (1992-94).

Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., retired Navy 4-star, Seventh Vice Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff (2005-07); NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Transformation (2003-05); Commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command (2002-05).

Admiral Charles R. Larson, retired Navy 4-star, Rhodes Scholar, Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet (1990-91); Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command (1991-94); Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy (1983-86; 1994-98).

General Lester L. Lyles, retired Air Force 4-star, Commander, Air Force Materiel Command (2000-03); Vice Chief of Staff (1999-2000).

General Robert Magnus, retired Marine Corps 4-star, Assistant Commandant (2005-08); Chairman, U.S. Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation (2009-11).

General Thomas S. Moorman, retired Air Force 4-star, Vice Chief of Staff (1994-97).

General Carl E. Mundy, Jr., retired Marine Corps 4-star, Commandant (1991-95).

Admiral Joseph W. Prueher, retired Navy 4-star, U.S. Ambassador to China (1999-2001); Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command (1996-99); 73rd Commandant of Midshipmen, U.S. Naval Academy (1989-91).

General Henry H. Shelton, retired Army 4-star, 14th Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff (1997-2001); Commander in Chief, U.S. Special Operations Command (1996-97).

General Gordon R. Sullivan, retired Army 4-star, Chief of Staff (1991-95); President and CEO, Association of the United States Army ("AUSA") (1998-present).