



**Sergeant Major Gene Overstreet**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps**

21 APR 2026  
HGO

Marine Corps League  
3619 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Suite 115  
Stafford, Virginia 22554

Re: Red Star Service Banner

Dear Mr. Morgan,

I write to you not only as the 12th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, but as a Marine who has spent a lifetime standing shoulder to shoulder with those who have served, and with the families who carry the weight of that service long after the uniform is hung up.

Today, I respectfully ask for the Marine Corps League's support in the passage of H.R. 7815, the Red Star Service Banner Act.

As outlined in the Dear Colleague letter led by Representative Jack Bergman, this legislation establishes a national symbol of recognition for the families of current military, veterans, and first responders who have died by suicide.

We have long honored those lost in combat. That will never change. But we must also recognize a difficult truth, many of our brothers and sisters continue to fight battles long after they come home. And far too many are losing that fight.

Every day, dozens of veterans die by suicide. Each loss leaves behind families navigating profound grief, often in silence, often without recognition, and too often without support. This bill changes that. The Red Star Service Banner is not just a symbol. It is a statement:

- That these families are seen.
- That their loss matters.
- That their loved one's service, and their struggle, will not be ignored.

This is about more than recognition. It is about saving lives.

By bringing visibility to veteran suicide and acknowledging the families affected, we begin to break the stigma that prevents so many from seeking help. When we normalize these conversations, we create pathways to earlier intervention, stronger peer support, and ultimately, fewer lives lost. This is a critical front in the war against veteran suicide.

I want to emphasize that supporting this bill does not require a formal resolution from your organization. We are simply asking the Marine Corps League to formally voice its support.

We respectfully request that you contact Colin Gwillim, Legislative Assistant to Representative Jack Bergman (MI-01), at (202) 225-4735, and state that the Marine Corps League supports H.R. 7815.

You would be joining a growing coalition of respected veteran and military service organizations who have already signed on in support, including:

- Disabled American Veterans
- Vietnam Veterans of America
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- America's Gold Star Families

The Marine Corps League has always stood with Marines, veterans, and their families. This is an opportunity to once again lead from the front. By recognizing a community that has gone too long without a voice.

We ask much of those who serve. We must also stand with their families in their most difficult moments.

Thank you for your continued leadership and unwavering commitment to our community.

**Long Live the Corps and Success to the Marines.**

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Overstreet". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Semper Fidelis,".

Gene Overstreet  
12<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

Cc. Mr. Robert Borka