



For Immediate Release

Date: SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

Contact: Ken Lull

(303) 519-0246

klull@nhesgr.com

The New Hampshire Military Officers Association Honors Senator Kelly Ayotte

CONCORD, NH- Commander Bruce Avery USN (Ret.), President of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (NHMOAA), honored U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) Thursday night at the monthly Board of Directors meeting for her bi-partisan support of the 157th Air Refuel Wing, New Hampshire Air National Guard's, national bid to be selected for the U.S. Air Force (USAF) KC-46 fielding at Pease Air National Guard Base. The Boeing KC-46 is a military aerial refueling and strategic transport aircraft developed by Boeing from its 767 jet airliner. In February 2011, the tanker was selected by the USAF as the winner in the KC-X tanker competition to replace older KC-135 Stratotankers. U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), along with U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), worked tirelessly the past 18 months in a combined and bi-partisan effort to highlight the strengths of the New Hampshire Air National Guard and the countless reasons that Pease Air National Guard Base should be chosen by the USAF for the fielding. In May 2013, the U.S. Air Force did just that. "It is an honor to present to you a token of our thanks and gratitude, not only for your efforts regarding the KC-46, but for what you do for all military members and their families as part of the Senate Armed Forces Committee" Avery said. Senator Ayotte was overjoyed by the presentation but acknowledged that any individual effort she made was part of a greater bi-partisan initiative.

Commander Avery took the opportunity to ask Senator Ayotte about issues of utmost concern to the members of the NHMOAA. When queried about the long term effects of sequestration, Senator Ayotte said "although sometimes you can't always see the immediate effects of something like sequestration, and while the military will cobble its way through the next couple years, in the end we wind up with a hollow force. Sequestration is not sustainable for the next 10 years." Ayotte indicated "I am all-in when it comes to finding resolution to this very important national defense issue."

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan affiliation with more than 380,000 members from every branch of service including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, former officers, and their families. It represents a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers. The New Hampshire Chapter of the MOAA consists of just under 900 members. More information can be found at <http://www.moaa-nh.org> or <http://www.moaa.org/main>.



(L to R) U. S. Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) and Commander Bruce Avery, USN (Ret), President NH Military Officers Association of America (NHMOAA)