

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 1, 2021

General David H. Berger
Commandant of the Marine Corps
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps
3000 Marine Corps, Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-3000

Dear Commandant Berger,

Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Scheller Jr. should be immediately released from the brig and allowed to voluntarily resign from his post. American service members should not be punished for demanding our military leaders stand up and take ownership of their decisions. Especially when those decisions lead to the tragic deaths of 13 service members.

Lt. Col. Scheller was relieved of his command for demanding accountability from military leaders over the dismal withdrawal from Afghanistan.¹ He offered to resign from his position instead of remaining in the Marines because of the lack of accountability within the top military brass.² His resignation was denied, he was arrested, and is currently being held in pretrial confinement at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.³

During the video post demanding accountability, Lt. Col. Scheller said “I have been fighting for 17 years. I am willing to throw it all away to say to my senior leaders: I demand accountability.”⁴ After posting this video, Lt. Col. Scheller was relieved of his command because of a “loss of trust and confidence in his ability to command.” Lt. Col. Scheller was willing to give up his well-deserved benefits in order to ensure that there was accountability for the failures in our withdrawal from Afghanistan. That is the kind of leadership that the American people want, deserve, and demand from their military leaders. Lt. Col. Scheller should have your complete trust and confidence for his willingness to stand up for what is right and to demand our military leaders hold themselves to the highest standards.

¹ Sammy Westfall and Paulina Villegas, *Marine says he'll resign after being relieved of command for calling out leaders on Afghanistan*, WASH. POST (Aug. 29, 2021), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/08/27/marine-batallion-commander-video/>.

² *Id.*

³ Chad Garland, *Marine officer of viral video fame now in brig after defying gag order*, STARS AND STRIPES (Sept. 28, 2021), https://www.stripes.com/branches/marine_corps/2021-09-28/stu-scheller-marine-brig-gag-order-pipe-hitter-3050094.html.

⁴ See Westfall, *Marine says he'll resign after being relieved of command for calling out leaders on Afghanistan*, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/08/27/marine-batallion-commander-video/>.

Lt. Col. Scheller must be immediately released from the brig and allowed to voluntarily resign from his post.

Sincerely,



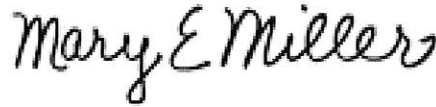
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



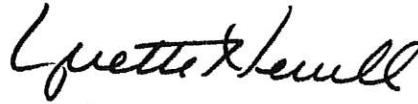
Bob Good
Member of Congress



Mary Miller
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell
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