



**February 13, 2021**

### **VFRL STATEMENT ON ACQUITTAL**

Today's acquittal of Donald Trump in the Senate was a disappointing showcase of the minority who chose to put party over country and vote against convicting the former President for his role in the attack on the US Capitol on January 6th. Veterans for Responsible Leadership (VFRL) denounces the cowardice of these forty-three Senators for forgetting their oath to serve the country and uphold the Constitution. That this group includes ten military veterans is especially lamentable; of all elected officials, those with military backgrounds should have the strength of character needed to censure the former President for his clear role in inciting and implicitly condoning the seditious assault on our government.

Trump's constant barrage of violent rhetoric and lies led directly to the treacherous assault on the Capitol. VFRL's leadership urges its members and all veterans to remember their oath – and the names of those Senators who voted to acquit Donald Trump despite his role in a violent insurrection on our democracy. There is no room in our government for those who seek to violently overthrow it; these forty-three Senators do not represent our American values and should not represent our American people.

VFRL's members believe that the actions of the fifty Democratic Senators and the seven Republican Senators who voted to convict – including Sens. Richard Burr (N.C.), Bill Cassidy (La.), Susan Collins (Maine), Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), Mitt Romney (Utah), Ben Sasse (Neb.) and Patrick J. Toomey (Pa.) – showed the integrity and commitment to our country that we demand from our elected officials.

Veterans for Responsible Leadership (VFRL), <http://vfri.org>, is a fully inclusive, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to preserve the integrity of American democracy against those who seek to undermine and subvert its institutions, the rule of law, and electoral system for personal or political advantage. Its members believe that service to the country shouldn't end when they take off the uniform, and all are asked to sign the Veteran Code, <http://veterancode.org>, to keep faith with their oath, their country, and their fellow veterans.

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