



Christian Rapp, Detachment Adjutant

Sons of the American Legion

215 Greenwood Avenue

Lehigh Acres, FL 33956

January 12, 2024

Dear Mr. Rapp,

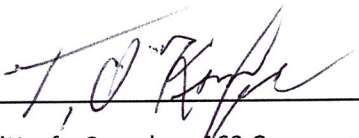
The intent of this letter is to show Mr. Steve Vilgats, Ed. S. has high interest in the office of Eastern Area Commander for the Sons of the American Legion in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Districts for the 2024-2025 service year. He is currently serving as the Commander for the 12<sup>th</sup> District from 2022. Prior to this, he served as the 12<sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander, 12<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain, Squadron 163 Commander for 3 years, recognized by Squadron 163 with a Honorary Life Membership, as well as actively currently serving Squadron 163 as the Finance Officer and Judge Advocate. Mr. Vilgats has actively been supporting the Sons of the American Legion programs at the Squadron, District, and State levels for the past 18 years.

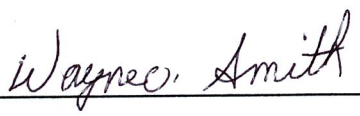
On January 8, 2024, at the regularly scheduled meeting of Squadron 163 in Eau Gallie, FL, the membership voted unanimously to endorse Mr. Steve Vilgats, Ed. S. for the office of Eastern Area Commander. Mr. Vilgats is eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion through both his father, an Army veteran of Vietnam and Gulf Wars, current American Legionnaire, and his grandfather an Army Air Corp and Air Force veteran from World War II and Korean Wars.

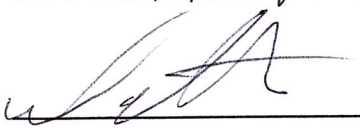
Mr. Vilgats is dedicated to being all in for the future of the Sons of the American Legion and The American Legion programs: a few examples are the Fisher House, COTA, Children and Youth, Special Olympics. He is actively involved with Florida American Legion Boys State program for the past 15 years. At first, just at the 12<sup>th</sup> District level serving as Assistant Chairperson in selection of delegates and coordinating transportation and hosting orientation meetings for over 100 delegates, alternates, and parents. In 2015, he was selected as a City Counselor for Boys State. Mr. Vilgats is serving as one of the Assistant Operations Manager for the Florida American Legion Boys State, 80<sup>th</sup> Session, June 2024 program. While at Florida American Legion Boys State, Mr. Vilgats represents the Sons of American of Legion by recruiting new members and speaking to the over 500 delegates in attendance throughout the week to engage them to the service opportunities with the Sons of the American Legion.

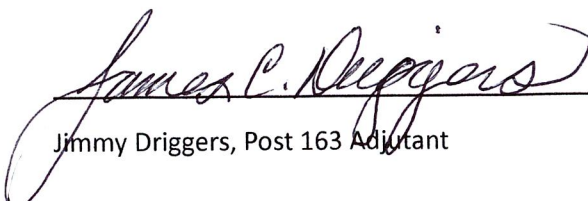
Please accept this letter as a record of our endorsement for Mr. Steve Vilgats, Ed. S. for the position of Eastern Area Commander for the Detachment of Florida 2024- 2025.

For God and Country,

  
Tim O'Keefe, Squadron 163 Commander

  
Wayne Smith, Post 163 Commander

  
Richard Christesson, Squadron 163 Adjutant

  
Jimmy Driggers, Post 163 Adjutant