



September 2, 2012

Release, Immediate

The NATIONAL DEFENSE PAC announces today its full endorsement of US Marine Corps Reserve **Colonel Larry Kaifesh**, candidate for the **8th Congressional District of Illinois**. **NATIONAL DEFENSE PAC**, Chairman, Rear Admiral James J. Carey, USN (ret), stated "Colonel Kaifesh has served this country in dangerous conflicts with valor. In addition to being smart and hardworking, Larry has experience in Washington and the military. This strong combination will enable Larry to make a difference on The Hill that will benefit both Illinois and the nation. We need his leadership, his first-hand knowledge of the Middle East, and his in-depth understanding of the needs of our military who are fighting in harm's way."

After graduation from Indiana University, Larry attended Officer Candidate School for the U. S. Marine Corps, and upon completion was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. His military career included deployments to Iraqi Freedom I in January 2003, where he led G. Co., 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine on the march thru Iraq and led the first co. into Baghdad. He also was part of the mission to secure Tikrit. He returned to Iraq in 2004 as part of Iraqi Freedom II in Al Anbar. April, 2004, he participated in Operation Vigilant Resolve in the First Battle of Fallujah to capture the city from Al Qaida terrorists. In 2006 he returned to Iraq as part of Iraqi Freedom IV. In 2008, Larry earned a Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies at the US Naval War College. In 2009, Kaifesh took command of 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines for the arduous deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, initially in the Helmand Province. Larry had tremendous success in Iraq and Afghanistan based not only on his ability to lead, fight, and win, but to listen and understand the complex problems presented by a multitude of tribes, political factions, and interest groups.

Along with this distinguished military career in the battlefield, during 2008 Kaifesh, also, served as Legislative Fellow to Congressman John P. Kline (MN-02) who is also a retired USMC Colonel. In 2012 Lt. Col Kaifesh joined the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Anti-Terrorism, Homeland Defense Directorate where eventually he became the Battle Captain for the Chairman in the National Joint Operations and Intelligence Center.

Military Awards include:

- Bronze Star
- Navy Commendation Medal with "V" for Valor in Combat
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Navy Achievement Medal
- The Meritorious Service Medal

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Mackie Christenson, Executive Director

National Defense PAC

703-350-0184