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The Honorable Ruben Gallego  
Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Arizona  
Democratic National Convention  
Thursday, August 22, 2024  
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

I'm a dad, husband, Congressman, and the proudest Arizonan you'll ever meet. But I'm even prouder to be a Marine.

My mom raised us alone, on a secretary's salary. I slept on the floor. I worked every job I could—meatpacking, construction, making pizzas. I made it to Harvard, with no money or connections. Other kids were happy because they were at Harvard. I was happy because I finally had a mattress.

Then I enlisted, fought alongside my brothers in Lima 3/25 in Iraq. They called us "Lucky Lima." But our luck ran out. We saw some of the heaviest combat of the war.

When we got home, the government failed to help us readjust. We have a duty to care for the patriots who serve our nation. For the Vietnam vet in Buckeye who relies on the VA for his medication, the Afghan veteran in Pittsburgh who finally got treatment for his PTSD, the Marine in Milwaukee who relies on the benefits she earned.

Kamala Harris and Tim Walz are fighting for them. Kamala Harris has delivered more benefits to more veterans than ever before. And achieved the lowest veterans unemployment rate in history. Vice President Harris has stood up for us and our families. Always. Governor Walz served for 24 years. His passion for veterans earned him respect on both sides of the aisle. He stands with us too.

In fact, let me show you the place veterans hold in our party—because we put our country over politics.

We stand united—veterans, Democrats, and patriots—to fight for everyone who served our country. But politicians like Donald Trump—they don't stand with us. They call patriots like Senator McCain losers. John McCain was an American hero. Show. Some. Respect. Trump's Project 2025 will slash veteran benefits and force VA hospitals to close across the nation. Show. Some. Respect.

So, for the 19-year-old who decides to enlist, for families who pray every night their loved ones come home, for troops stationed thousands of miles away, for Lima Company, let's elect Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, who don't just respect our service, but revere it.

Because the veterans who defended this country aren't just the reason we can sleep at night. They're the reason we can dream. And together, we'll fight for our veterans and everyone who served our country.

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