

Citizens For Jim Martin  
P.O. Box #4  
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED VETERAN ADVOCATE ENDORSES JIM MARTIN  
Endorsement Reflects Respect For Military Service.

Lake Elmo, Minnesota – 27 September 2010:

Ten years ago, Tom Schepers, a wounded and decorated Vietnam Veteran, ran across the United States while carrying full-sized American and POW/MIA flags on a 10-foot flagpole. He covered over 3,300 miles in five months to raise awareness of WWII veterans and the WWII Veterans Memorial being constructed in their honor. After covering 25-miles daily from June 6<sup>th</sup> (D-Day) to November 11<sup>th</sup> (Veterans' Day), the United States House Of Representatives recognized the WWII Veterans Run through the comments of Rep. Betty McCollum:

“Mr. Schepers tribute to this great American generation is a welcome sight, and one that all Americans must not take for granted.”

In a letter today, this veteran advocate nationally recognized for running out of the Pacific Ocean to Washington D.C. endorsed the 2010 candidacy of Jim Martin for state House, district 56A. As Mr. Schepers points out, Jim Martin is “the only candidate for Minnesota House in the entire state who has never been affiliated with a political party.” Coupled with a nomination by the public for election and the lack of financial political ties, he suggests that Jim Martin “is beholden entirely to the voters.”

This endorsement was also based upon the demonstration of being driven by respect for military sacrifice over an extended period of time. After crediting him with an active roll during the WWII Veterans Run a decade ago, Mr. Schepers said that Jim Martin is clearly driven by respect for military service. Turning to Jim Martin's platform, he points out the issue where Minnesota Statutes empower bodies of unelected individuals to levy tax and “force the hand of elected officials.” He then quotes Jim Martin publicly denouncing the practice of appointed individuals governing his district, which include veterans who fought so people can elect their government:

“This is not just disrespectful to the ideal of freedom and military sacrifice, but to our dignity and human life as a whole.”

In concluding his endorsement, Mr. Schepers urged the public to vote in honor of a veteran and encouraged district 56A voters to elect Jim Martin to the Minnesota House Of Representatives.

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For more information, visit <<http://www.VoteJimMartin.com>>, contact Jim Martin directly at 651-206-8663, or see the included endorsement letter.

27 September 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Tom Schepers, I am a retired nurse, and devote much of my time assisting ailing veterans and raising awareness of issues important to all veterans. Today, it brings me great pleasure to endorse the 2010 candidacy of Jim Martin. As an independent Minnesota resident, he was nominated for election to the Minnesota House Of Representatives by those living in district 56A instead of a party. It is my understanding that he is the only 2010 candidate for Minnesota House in the entire state who has never been affiliated with a political party. As this citizen candidate is also accepting contributions only from individuals and not subsidized with public funding from our state, he is beholden entirely to the voters.

After being shot through the leg and foot while saving a fallen comrade in Vietnam, I returned home and was never expected to walk again. Against the odds, I nearly fully recovered. On 6 June 2000 (D-Day), I began running out of the tides of the Pacific Ocean at Camp Pendelton, California, with full-sized American and POW/MIA flags hoisted on a 10-foot flagpole. Covering 25-miles every day for five-months, I reached the site of the WWII Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, on 11 November (Veterans' Day) ten years ago. That following May, U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum stated on the floor of the U.S. House, "Mr. Schepers tribute to this great American generation is a welcome sight, and one that all Americans must not take for granted." Making it possible for this 3,300-mile tribute to be completed, the members of the WWII Veterans Run committee worked diligently behind the scenes. By sitting on this committee and taking on an active roll, Jim Martin aided in increasing our nation's awareness of WWII veterans and the WWII Veterans Memorial.

As published online by the Oakdale / Lake Elmo Review, Jim Martin states an important issue in his platform: "unelected bodies should not have taxing authority or the power to force the hand of elected officials." On 9 September, the Stillwater Gazette quoted Jim Martin regarding his political motive behind this issue: "Our service men and women, veterans, and those who have died in action while engaged in battle, all served for the ideal that a government is to be subject to the will of its citizenry. Today, we live alongside those military men and women in our district as they are governed by appointed individuals whom they did not elect. This is not just disrespectful to the ideal of freedom and military sacrifice, but to our dignity and human life as a whole." Clearly, Jim Martin is driven by his respect for military service.

At the 2 November general election, I urge all those eligible in district 56A to vote in honor of a veteran. I strongly encourage district 56A voters to elect Jim Martin to the Minnesota House Of Representatives.

Sincerely,



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