

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.), a former Captain in the JAG Corps and special prosecutor on Fort Hood, today joined 10 Members of Congress in asking President Obama to use his authority as President to stop the trial against Petty Officer, 2nd Class Matthew McCabe, the Navy SEAL charged with mistreating a terrorist leader.

“We ask that you exercise your Constitutional authority as President of the United States and stop the Matthew McCabe trial and acquit him of all charges. Acquitting Mr. McCabe of these charges will decrease the potential negative impact for all men and women in the Armed Forces, but will also allow Mr. McCabe to go back to doing what he wants to do, and that is serving his country and protecting our citizens,” the Congressmen wrote in a letter to the President and Defense Secretary Gates.

“The United States is in a war against global terrorism, and we have brave men like Matthew McCabe who want nothing more than to protect America, and go back to the front line to fight for our treasured liberties and freedoms. Our men and women in the Armed Forces, just like Mr. McCabe, are putting their lives in harm’s way each and every day. We cannot burden these men and women with the potential for legal action with every move or gesture they make.

Petty Officer Matthew McCabe of Perrysburg, Ohio faces charges of assault for allegedly punching detainee Ahmed Hashim Abed, the accused mastermind behind the brutal killings of four security contractors whose burned corpses were dragged through the streets. Petty Officer, 2nd Class Jonathan Keefe and Petty Officer, 1st Class Julio Huertas were recently acquitted on related charges.

Rooney spent more than four years in the United States Army JAG Corps. He served as Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas, prosecuting all civilian crimes on Fort Hood, TX, then taught the Laws of War and the Uniform Code of Military Justice at the United States Military Academy at West Point from 2002-04. Rooney is now a member of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), the HASC Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee, and the Judiciary Committee.

For the full letter, please click here: