

MIKE THOMPSON

5TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

April 6, 2020

DISTRICT OFFICES:
2721 NAPA VALLEY CORPORATE DRIVE
NAPA, CA 94558
(707) 226-9898
420 VIRGINIA STREET, SUITE 1C
VALLEJO, CA 94590
(707) 645-1888
2300 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE, SUITE A100
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403
(707) 542-7182
CAPITOL OFFICE:
406 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3311
WEB: <http://mikethompson.house.gov>

The Honorable Mark T. Esper
Acting Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Acting Secretary Esper:

I am writing regarding Captain Brett Crozier, a native of my District, who has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the health, safety, and wellbeing of the sailors of the USS Theodore Roosevelt. Captain Crozier acted in the best interest of his crew. I am deeply concerned that his dismissal was decided before the completion of a thorough investigation.

I've read Captain Crozier's letter that appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle on Tuesday, March 31. The letter does not convey the unsubstantiated concerns of an alarmist. The sailors aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt faced an unprecedented health crisis and Captain Crozier plainly set forth common sense recommendations to ensure the safety of his crew and maintain its capacity to execute the national security mission in a region with complex threats. These recommendations clearly adhere to the guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control to treat, contain, and prevent the spread of COVID-19. In addition, Captain Crozier's actions align with Department of Defense guidance that protecting people is the top priority. In your remarks from March 24, you urged commanders and senior enlisted personnel to "do the right thing, particular to your unit" to "protect your people, while at the same time maintaining mission readiness."

Captain Crozier prioritized the greatest asset of the Department of Defense – the women and men of the Armed Forces. The Office of the Secretary of Defense should urge Secretary Modly to conduct an open, transparent, and complete investigation into the circumstances surrounding the dismissal of Captain Crozier for the sailors of the USS TR and their families and loved ones. Firing the messenger who raised the alarm shows a worrisome lack of judgment. Captain Crozier and the sailors of the USS Theodore Roosevelt deserve better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Thompson".

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress