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5000 Americans Sign National Lawyers' Group Letter Asking President Biden to Honor Colonel Vindman Ahead of His Retirement

BOSTON — More than 5,000 Americans have joined [Lawyers Defending American Democracy](#) (LDAD) in their call to President Biden to grant **Yevgeny “Eugene” Vindman** the military honor of retiring this month as a Colonel.

As background, Eugene and his twin brother, Alex Vindman, raised legal and national security concerns to their superiors following the now-notorious phone call Alex observed between President Donald Trump and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky. Their efforts to report this conversation through the chain of command ultimately resulted in the former president’s first impeachment. But as LDAD describes on [its website](#), their actions resulted in retaliatory measures that irreparably damaged Col. Vindman’s military career — an assertion confirmed by the Army’s Inspector General.

Unless a waiver is granted by the President, a military officer must have three years of service in rank to retire at that level. Col. Vindman’s promotion to Colonel was delayed, and as a result, he has served as a Colonel for 14 months.

[VIEW THE LETTER AND COMPLETE LIST OF SIGNERS](#)

LDAD and the five thousand individuals who have signed its letter believe that Col. Vindman acted with bravery and patriotism, and should be recognized for his defense of our Constitution by being allowed to retire in rank. By approving this request, President Biden will also reinforce a critical message: those who stand up with courage for the constitution will be rewarded, and retaliation will not be tolerated.

Stuart Gerson, former Acting Attorney General of the United States and signer of this letter had this to say:

“Colonel Eugene Vindman, whose distinguished military career was derailed by an act of political vengeance, should, in recognition of his significant contributions to national security and the pursuit of truth, be allowed to retire at the rank he deservedly earned.”

Another signer, **Norman Ornstein, Emeritus Scholar, American Enterprise Institute**, adds:

“Yevgeny Vindman is a patriot who followed his oath to a tee, and was unfairly singled out and punished for doing so-- and for being the twin brother of Alexander Vindman. It is a small but significant step of vindication to let him retire as a full colonel, marking his distinguished service to his country.”

Other prominent signers of this letter include numerous former military officials, past bar association presidents (including several past presidents of the American Bar Association), former judges, and other governmental officials. For example:

- Joseph Carter, Adjudicate General (ret.), MA National Guard
- Richard Danzig, former Secretary of the Navy
- Norman Eisen, Sr. Fellow, Brookings Institute
- Gary Hart, former US Senator
- Scott Harshbarger, former Attorney General of Massachusetts
- Philip Lacovara, former Watergate prosecutor, winning advocate, US v. Nixon
- Laurence Tribe, Harvard Law School Emeritus Professor of Constitutional Law
- Thomas Vanaskie, retired US federal court of appeals judge for the Third Circuit

About Lawyers Defending American Democracy

Founded in 2019, Lawyers Defending American Democracy (LDAD) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to fostering adherence to the protection of the Constitution and the rule of law. LDAD has issued a variety of Open Letters and Statements calling for adherence by public officials to the rule of law and encouraging fellow lawyers, leaders of bar associations, and the legal academy to join in speaking out against threats to democracy. LDAD has also filed disciplinary complaints against lawyers who have violated their oath to protect the Constitution, for example, Rudolph Giuliani, Jeffrey Clark, Kenneth Paxton, and John Eastman. All letters, statements and briefs are available at www.LDAD.org.

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