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February 16, 2023

Dear Space Coast Post,

Best wishes as you gather for the Society of American Military Engineers 2023 Small Business Industry Day and Federal Contracting Workshop. You are bringing together two great forces for progress – military engineering and grass roots entrepreneurship. We need those forces now more than ever as we approach the quarter century mark. Our community owes much to our small businesses, and I'm grateful that SAME is nurturing those enterprises to respond to our challenges and play an active role in the bright engineering future ahead. I share your vision of military engineers and small businesses coming together to energize the next generation of innovations.

Engineering in the United States has its roots at West Point, the nation's first engineering school founded on the vision of Thomas Jefferson. It's said that he signed the West Point bill after ensuring that those who attended the Academy would be representative of a democratic society. After the "War to End All Wars," the founders of SAME embraced a strong devotion to our country. They proclaimed, "This society will serve no selfish purpose. It is dedicated to patriotism and national security. Its objects are, in brief, to promote solidarity and cooperation between engineers in civil and military life..." Your society has been steadfast to those principles, and the organization and its members have been such an important part of so much progress and technological advance never dreamed of just after World War I.

Here on the Space Coast, SAME and engineering have been a powerful part of our lives as we became our nation's portal for space exploration and now stand on the threshold of government and private partnerships that will once again put our astronauts back on the Moon and take them to Mars and beyond. Thank you for being part of these achievements and your commitment to our future.

Even as we look toward our flag again being planted in outer space, we are called to respond to the daunting challenges to maintaining our quality of life here on earth. I look forward to your continued contributions to a strong military and in meeting our civil engineering challenges. We've just experienced two devastating storms and engineers have played a huge role in our recovery. We will depend on engineers to plan and build the infrastructure, like our Brevard beaches project, that can protect us in the future. Environmental challenges also summon you to contribute. I have been proud to lead the Congressional Estuary Caucus to bring resources to protecting and restoring the Indian River Lagoon, and I hope that SAME members will look for ways to get involved in this important work. The Space Coast also needs your help

in protecting our people from the threats of “Forever Chemicals” or PFAS. For the past several years, I have been engaged in getting DOD and EPA to act to protect Space Coast families, and we are making great progress in getting the funds to address PFAS in our community and new protections for our drinking water. I know SAME members will be part of remediating these substances in our community.

The challenges are great indeed, but military engineers and small businesses are great also. Together they are just about unbeatable. I will be at your side as you discover and implement improvements to the lives of our Space Coast families. You can count on my support. Good luck with your meeting. I am honored to serve you in Congress. If I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Posey". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "B" and a cursive "P" that extends into a long horizontal stroke.

Bill Posey
Member of Congress