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PRESS RELEASE

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Michael Coleman Receives Association of Defense Communities Award for Community Leadership

June 10, 2019, Washington, D.C.,—Michael Coleman, Military Liaison for the Commonwealth of Virginia Office of Veterans and Defense Affairs has been honored with the 2019 Community Leadership Award from the Association of Defense Communities (ADC). U.S. Representatives Rob Wittman (VA-1) and Elaine Luria (VA-2) presented the award to Coleman at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., during the 2019 Defense Communities National Summit.

Coleman has acted as the Military Relations Liaison for the Commonwealth and Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs since 2009. He was responsible for Virginia's 'Growing the Military Missions' Strategic Plan, which worked to provide recommendations for military installations and communities to fully utilize the opportunities for partnerships granted in the National Defense Authorization Act.

"Mike Coleman has played a key role in supporting and growing Virginia's many military installations," ADC President Bill Parry said. "His leadership has proven that a region can thrive when state officials make it a priority to focus on improving military missions and quality of life."

As a result of his leadership, new intergovernmental service agreements have been signed at installations from all four services. He has been a key instrument in developing a new partnership between Fort Lee and neighboring Prince George County to help reduce the response times of both installation and county police, fire, and rescue units.

"Mike's leadership has produced astounding results," Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Carolos Hopkins said. "He cares deeply about partnerships and the benefits they bring to soldiers, sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, civilians, and families serving in the commonwealth."

ADC (defensecommunities.org) builds resilient communities that support America's military. It is the nation's leading association representing communities and states with a significant military presence and their partner organizations. It unites the diverse interests of communities, states, the private sector and the military on issues such as protecting defense infrastructure, community-military partnerships, defense real estate, mission growth, base redevelopment, and support for military families and veterans.

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