TO: Council Members

FROM: Staff

DATE: July 21, 2017 Council Meeting

SUBJECT: Legislative Update 2017 – U.S. Congressman Brian Mast, 18th District of Florida

Introduction

Congressman Brian Mast is in his first term representing the 18th District of Florida. Congressman Mast accepted an invitation from Council to address the board at its July meeting. The focus of his remarks today address Federal involvement and advocacy on issues affecting the Treasure Coast Region.

Congressman Mast served in the U.S. Army for more than 12 years, earning several commendations including the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal for Valor, the Purple Heart Medal, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. While deployed in Afghanistan, he worked as a bomb disposal expert under the elite Joint Special Operations Command. The last improvised explosive device that he found resulted in catastrophic injuries, which included the loss of both of his legs.

Brian remained on active duty following the injuries and provided expertise to the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms during his recovery process. After his retirement from the Army, he continued working in counter-terrorism and national defense as an Explosive Specialist with the Department of Homeland Security. Brian subsequently received a degree from the Harvard Extension School.

In Congress, he is a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where his priorities include fixing the pressing regional water quality issues affecting the Region’s coastal estuaries and nearshore Atlantic reefs. He also serves on the Foreign Affairs Committee, where he uses his military expertise to help strengthen the safety and security of the United States.

Recommendation

For information, education, and discussion purposes.