



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 6, 2024

### **NARFE Urges Unity, Congratulates President-elect Trump and Members of the 119th Congress**

**Alexandria, Va.** – *NARFE National President William Shackelford issued the following statement regarding the 2024 election:*

“NARFE congratulates Donald J. Trump as the projected president-elect following a strongly contested race. Likewise, NARFE commends new and returning members of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress on successful campaigns.

“As we look forward to the new Congress and administration, we urge the president and lawmakers from both parties to embrace a shared respect for democracy, find common ground, and work together, in partnership with, and respectful of, the federal workforce, to best serve the American people.

#### ***Merit-Based Civil Service***

“Every administration should—and will—bring along its own cadre of political appointees to set and direct the policy of the duly elected president. But NARFE will stand firmly against any efforts to eliminate or erode the merit-based civil service, including a reimplementation of Schedule F.

“At the end of his first term, President Trump issued an executive order creating Schedule F and directed agencies to reclassify certain positions into it. Such positions would have been stripped of competitive service protections, requiring employees only to be hired or fired based on merit, rather than political loyalties, nepotism or otherwise. During the campaign, President Trump expressed support for the return of Schedule F. We urge Congress to block the prospect of such an action by passing legislation, such as the Saving the Civil Service Act, H.R.1002/S.399.

“The merit-based civil service protects the honor of the federal government to work on behalf of the American people. It favors professionalism, provides continuity through changing administrations, and ensures public servants’ primary allegiance is to the Constitution and laws of the United States rather than the individual temporarily holding the office of President. NARFE will lead the fight to preserve it—but will need the support and voice of federal workers and concerned citizens across the country to succeed.”

### **Federal Benefits**

“Past Trump administration budget proposals took aim at earned federal benefits for retirees and current employees—from eliminating or reducing cost-of-living adjustments to changing the calculation of retirement benefits for current employees. NARFE strongly opposes such retroactive cuts to earned benefits and urges the new Trump administration to honor the government’s commitments to civil servants.”

### **Looking Ahead**

“After a particularly contentious election campaign and record voter turnout, it is my sincere hope that Americans seek unity and mutual understanding in the days, months and years ahead. I have no doubt federal workers—Republicans, Democrats and independents among them—will lead the way. They will continue to uphold their oaths to support and defend the Constitution and serve the American people, as they have for every presidential administration.”

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*As the only organization solely dedicated to the general welfare of all federal workers and retirees, NARFE delivers valuable guidance, timely resources and powerful advocacy. For more than 100 years, NARFE has been a trusted source of knowledge for the federal community, Capitol Hill, the executive branch and the media.*

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