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**Dr. Lorita “Rita” C. Daniels Announces Candidacy for U.S. Senate in Virginia
“Honoring Service Means Action, Accountability, and Real Leadership.”**

SPOTSYLVANIA, VA – Dr. Lorita “Rita” C. Daniels, educator, community leader, and long-time advocate for military families, officially announced today that she is running for the United States Senate representing the Commonwealth of Virginia. Daniels, who holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy from Virginia Tech, enters the race focused on restoring accountability, strengthening support for veterans and military families, and ensuring that government prioritizes the needs of everyday Virginians.

The announcement comes on Veterans Day, a deeply personal day of reflection and service for Daniels. Daniels is married to a United States Air Force veteran, has family members who have served, and has been a consistent champion for policies that improve outcomes for military-connected families. Under her leadership as Chair of the Spotsylvania County School Board, every public school in the county earned the state’s Purple Star designation, recognizing excellence in supporting children of active-duty service members.

“As we honor our veterans, we must move beyond ceremonial gratitude,” said Daniels. “Service requires action. It requires accountability. It requires leadership grounded in real experience and a commitment to listening before legislating. I am running for the U.S. Senate because Virginians deserve a leader who is present, who pays attention, and who stands up for people, not political agendas.”

Daniels has raised concerns about deficiencies in oversight and execution of the Veterans Affairs (VA) community care networks, particularly as more veterans are referred to private providers. She emphasized the need for a strengthened system that honors the dignity of veterans and the caregivers who support them.

“This is not about bureaucracy. This is about people,” said Daniels. “We must ensure that every veteran has timely access to high-quality care, that oversight is strong, that caregivers are supported, and that taxpayer investments are used transparently and responsibly. That is leadership.”

Beyond veteran support, Daniels' campaign will focus on reconnecting institutions to the people they serve.

“When people are not heard, communities fracture,” she said. “This campaign is about rebuilding trust and ensuring that voices that have been ignored or overlooked are finally at the center of policy discussions.”

In the coming months, Daniels will launch The Re-Envisioning Virginia Tour, a statewide listening and engagement initiative that will bring together veterans, educators, business owners, healthcare professionals, rural and urban communities, and civic and faith leaders to help guide her policy platform.

About Dr. Lorita C. Daniels

Dr. Daniels is the former Chair of the Spotsylvania County School Board and served two elected terms representing the Salem District. She has led major initiatives in public education, community engagement, and military family support. Daniels holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy from Virginia Tech and a Master of Public Administration from Valdosta State University. She is married to a U.S. Air Force veteran and is the mother of three children. More information is available at www.loritadaniels.com.