

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2022

The Honorable Denis R. McDonough
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20420

Secretary McDonough,

We write to you to with grave concern regarding a pressing issue facing the veterans of Tennessee. The Department of Veterans Affairs managed national veteran cemeteries are quickly running out of adequate space to properly honor the fighting men and women who have sacrificed so much for our nation. In 1862, we made an iron-clad promise to our veterans and their families that the United States Government would always provide burial services to include the burial space, headstone or marker, a flag, and perpetual care of the burial site at no cost to the family.

The federal government is, however, dangerously close to breaking this promise for the millions of veterans currently living and serving. Of the five national veterans cemeteries located in Tennessee serving our veteran constituents and their families, only two currently have burial space available and even these limited spaces are rapidly running out. The Volunteer State is blessed to have an inordinately large percentage of its population be veterans. The number of veterans requesting burial services in Tennessee will only continue to grow. The Department must live up to its motto, taken from President Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." The Department must act on this commitment immediately.

As Tennessee's representatives in the United States House of Representatives, we request your planned solution to this growing crisis of cemetery availability for our veteran constituents. What will the Department of Veterans Affairs do to ensure that we as a nation honor the promises made to our Veterans and their families and meet the commitments that we've made to provide access to respectful and appropriate burial locations and services?

We request your response no later than April 30, 2022. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this critical matter.

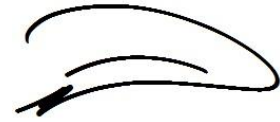
Respectfully,



Mark E. Green, M.D.
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



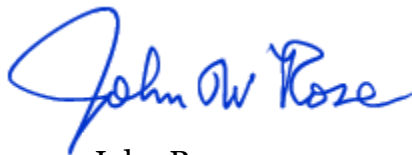
Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress