



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0605**

December 16, 2021

The Honorable Denis R. McDonough  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

We write today to encourage you to continue granting access to Arlington National Cemetery and similar sites across the country so that volunteers can lay wreaths at gravesites in honor of our nation's fallen heroes.

In 1992, a family decided to donate surplus wreaths from their Christmas tree farm to be laid on the graves in Arlington Cemetery. This tradition, first started in Arlington, has spread across the country. The wreaths are placed on graves to honor and respect the fallen. Every year during the Christmas season, thousands of grateful volunteers lay wreaths on hundreds of thousands of graves of our nation's fallen men and women. By 2008, the United States Senate had passed a resolution recognizing December 13<sup>th</sup> as "Wreaths Across America Day," and the Senate unanimously passed S. Res. 476 to honor December 18<sup>th</sup> as "Wreaths Across America Day" in 2021.

We understand that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has consistently granted access for this purpose over the years. We are concerned that VA may not continue this tradition, due to recent unfounded attacks from bigoted, anti-Christian groups criticizing the patriotic work of volunteers who lay wreaths on the graves of our nation's fallen heroes as "unconstitutional, an atrocity, and a disgrace" and referring to the wreaths placed on the graves as "gang signs." We are collectively disgusted by the disrespect shown by individuals looking to grab headlines by stomping on the memory of those who gave their lives for our freedom.

This Christmas season, we urge you to accommodate the volunteers who wish to continue to lay wreaths for our nation's heroes as they have done for the past twenty-nine years. We ask that you join us in strongly condemning those who would criticize and cheapen the sacrifices made by our men and women serving in the armed forces. We therefore strongly urge you to accommodate the continued efforts of all organizations who work diligently to remember our nation's heroes, honor the fallen, and teach future generations of the sacrifices made by our servicemembers to keep our country free.

Sincerely,

Bob Good  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn  
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Chip Roy  
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress



Mary Miller  
Member of Congress



Ted Budd  
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress



Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



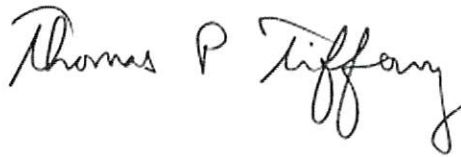
H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



Ben Cline  
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress



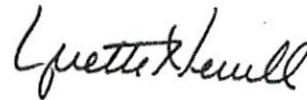
Thomas P. Tiffany  
Member of Congress



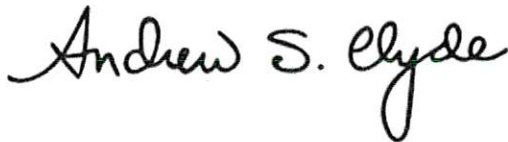
Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress



Marjorie Taylor Greene  
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



Jody Hice  
Member of Congress



Matt Rosendale  
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson  
Member of Congress



Barry Moore  
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress



Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress

Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

Andrew Garbarino  
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress

Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress

Michael Guest  
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress

*Jim Hagedorn*

Jim Hagedorn  
Member of Congress

*Vicky Hartzler*

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

*Louie Gohmert*

Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress