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 13th as “Wreaths Across America Day,” and the Senate unanimously passed S. Res. 476 to honor December 16th 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
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  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress