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July 6, 2026

The Honorable Douglas A. Collins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you to your team for appearing as witnesses before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Oversight hearing titled "Memorializing our Veterans: Outreach, Upkeep, and Community Partnerships at Veterans Cemeteries" that was held on June 30, 2026.

As a follow-up to the hearing, I request that the Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Samuel Brown, respond to the attached questions for the record.

The Committee requests a written response no later than July 27, 2026, so the responses may be made part of the record. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Nicholas West, Chief Clerk, on my staff via email at Nicholas.West@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Morgan Luttrell
Chairman
Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs

Cc: The Honorable Morgan McGarvey, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs

Enclosures:

Questions for the Record submitted by Ranking Member Morgan McGarvey

Ranking Member Morgan McGarvey
Questions for the Record
Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
Hearing on “Memorializing our Veterans: Outreach, Upkeep, and
Partnerships at Veterans Cemeteries”
June 30, 2026 at 2:15pm

For Under Secretary Samuel Brown, National Cemetery Administration, Dept. of Veterans Affairs

1. On oversight visits cemetery staff mentioned that low credit card limits hindered their ability to complete less expensive non-recurring maintenance projects. For example, one project mentioned was a repair needed to a broken handicapped accessible door which blocked wheelchair access to the primary chapel.
 - a. Has this issue reached your level yet?
 - b. How are you ensuring that directors have the means necessary to make repairs quickly and efficiently?
2. Has the National Cemetery Administration made a decision on continuation of the chaplain pilot which was terminated several months ago? If so, what was that decision.
 - a. If the decision was not to continue the program, please provide information or rationale used to support that decision.
 - b. If the decision was to continue the program, please provide information as to when the program will be stood up again and at which locations.
3. Regarding the Hawaii National Cemetery, has NCA conducted any market survey there, to determine potential desire for a new national cemetery? Or do your demand signals come from only burial applications?
 - a. Given that the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific has been closed to new first interments of casketed remains for decades, is there concern those demand signals may be muted, because people know it's not an option available to them?
 - b. How do you account for that issue when deciding to oppose a new national cemetery there?
 - c. Will NCA commit to conducting a market survey of veterans in Hawaii to determine the desire for a new national cemetery?