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July 15, 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 no later than August 5, 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 Representative Kelly Morrison

**House Committee on Veterans' Affairs – Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and
Memorial Affairs**

Subcommittee Hearing: *“Memorializing our Veterans: Outreach, Upkeep, and Community
Partnerships at Veterans Cemeteries”*

June 30th, 2026

Questions for the Record – Rep. Morrison

1) Under Secretary Brown, as you know, the maximum burial allowance for the family of a veteran who dies from a service-connected condition is \$2,000. As of last fall, the family of a veteran who passes away from a non-service connected condition can now receive up to \$2,004 in burial benefits, half for funeral expenses and half for a plot allowance. This means the maximum non-service connected benefit now exceeds the service-connected benefit because the former was indexed to inflation, while the latter has remained stagnant. What do you make of this disparity and do you think Congress should take action to increase the burial allowance for service-connected conditions?