

Congressman McKinley (WV-1)

We cannot begin to understand the grief and anger the families of those killed at the Clarksburg VA Medical Center have felt this last year. To find out that your loved ones were killed while in the care of a hospital is unimaginable.

The investigation into the suspicious deaths at the Clarksburg VA Medical Center has now gone on for more than 16-months and has left families with more questions than answers. It is imperative that the authorities conclude this investigation as soon as possible and provide answers to the public, closure to the families and justice to those who lost loved ones.

While hindsight is 20/20, we now know that several red flags should have been raised soon after the deaths. At the time, many of these deaths did not raise suspicions, and family members trusted the VA hospital when they were told the deaths were natural.

While it is clear several missteps were made, we would be remiss if we did not give credit to the Clarksburg VA Medical Center, for self-reporting the suspicious deaths once a pattern was noticed.

This incident has damaged the trust veterans and their families' have in the VA, and we owe it to them to find out what happened. I hope the committee will use today's hearing to find solutions that will protect our veterans and restore their belief that they are receiving the best quality of care possible.