

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

We write today concerning the Honor Flight Network (Honor Flight) and their ability to use the National Park Service's United States Park Police (USPP) vehicular escort services. Veterans in the United States deserve the highest respect from our nation. Honor Flight should maintain access to this service.

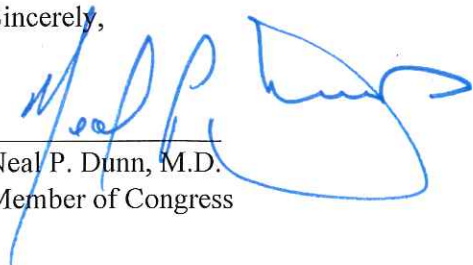
As you know, Honor Flight is a national network of Hubs that sponsors a trip for veterans to visit Washington, D.C. Our nation's heroes have the opportunity during the trip to view all the war memorials in our nation's capital that are dedicated to their service and sacrifice. Honor Flight typically pays the USPP to provide escort services during the day of the war memorial tour. This allows the veterans, including those with disabilities, to see all the war memorials during their allocated time in Washington, D.C.


However, the USPP recently contacted Honor Flight to inform them that their vehicular escort services are no longer available for any Honor Flight Hub visiting the war memorials. We are told this is because the Department of Interior has not explicitly given permission to the USPP to do so. This is very concerning and disappointing for our veteran constituents who look forward to their trip to D.C.


COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted across the country and in Washington, D.C., and many Americans are looking forward to resuming recreational travel. The Honor Flight trips are a once in a lifetime experience for some veterans. We respectfully ask that you provide an explanation regarding specific actions that need to be taken to resume immediately the USPP's ability to provide Honor Flight's vehicular escort.

In addition, since the Florida Hub is scheduled to visit this spring, we stand ready in Congress to help reinstate the USPP's escort services should Congressional action be necessary. The escort service is critical to ensuring the veterans participating in the Honor Flight trip receive the full experience they have earned. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to a timely response.

Sincerely,


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


Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



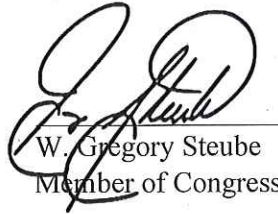
Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin
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