

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & REFORM
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4321

November 18, 2020

The Honorable Ryan McCarthy
Secretary of the Army
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Karen Durham-Aguilera
Executive Director
Army National Cemetery
1 Memorial Avenue
Arlington, VA 22211

Dear Secretary McCarthy and Ms. Durham-Aguilera:

Thank you for your swift action in reversing Arlington National Cemetery's decision to cancel the annual Wreaths Across America event on December 19th, 2020. It is nonetheless concerning that Arlington National Cemetery unilaterally decided to prevent volunteers from placing Christmas wreaths at the headstones of those who gave the last great measure for the United States.

We write to request information on why the decision to cancel Wreaths Across America was made and what will be done to ensure that volunteers are able to freely participate without unnecessary restrictions. As we know, socially distant, outdoor activities present an extremely low risk to participants. Therefore, there is no reason why this ceremony should have ever been in question.

As a country we have asked much of our service members. Time and again, they answer the call. The wreath laying tradition serves as a reminder that freedom is never free. Rather, the freedom we enjoy today was secured by the lives of the patriots resting in Arlington National Cemetery. There is no better time to express our gratitude to these fallen heroes than during the holiday season. We are pleased to see the Wreaths Across America ceremony proceed.

Sincerely,



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



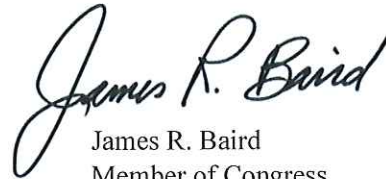
Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



James R. Baird
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress