

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 2025

Samuel B. Brown
Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs
National Cemetery Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Under Secretary Brown:

As members of the California Congressional delegation, we write to express our strong support for the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program Pre-application submitted by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) for the Southern California Veterans Cemetery at Gypsum Canyon in Anaheim Hills, California.

Orange County is home to more than 100,000 veterans and yet remains the largest county in California without a dedicated veterans cemetery. While neighboring counties have established facilities, Orange County's distinct geographic identity and accessibility challenges underscore the need for a local solution that honors its veteran community. Although Riverside National Cemetery is relatively close in terms of mileage, proximity does not equal accessibility. Severe traffic congestion and long travel times create real burdens for grieving families and aging loved ones—amounting to a significant barrier to access. For many, the distance to Riverside makes regular visits to honor and remember their loved ones unfeasible.

This lack of geographic equity has left Orange County's veteran community underserved, despite their longstanding contributions to our nation's military and public service. The proposed cemetery at Gypsum Canyon would fill this critical gap, ensuring that Orange County veterans have the same opportunity as others across the state to be laid to rest in their home community.

After years of delay due to a lack of consensus on an appropriate location, we are now united. The County of Orange, all 34 cities, a bipartisan majority of the County's state and federal delegation, public safety and labor organizations, and more than 100 local, state and national veterans organizations are united in support of the Gypsum Canyon location. The Orange County Board of Supervisors has committed over 200 acres of land and \$20 million for the development of a veterans cemetery at Gypsum Canyon. State Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva and State Senator Thomas J. Umberg have secured an additional \$35.5 million in state funding. With nearly \$55.5 million secured, a dedicated site, and overwhelming public support, this project is not only needed but also ready to break ground and begin construction.

We respectfully urge you to consider CalVet's pre-application fully and fairly, in accordance with the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program criteria and consistent with all applicable rules and

regulations, and recognize this critical step toward achieving equity, access, and readiness for Orange County veterans and their families.

Sincerely,



Young Kim
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



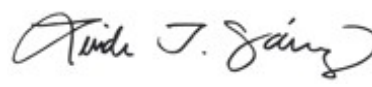
Dave Min
Member of Congress



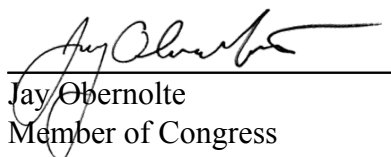
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress




Jim Costa
Member of Congress



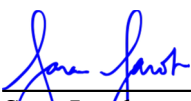
Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



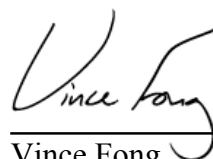
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



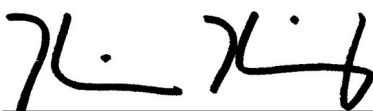
Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Vince Fong
Member of Congress



Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress