



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

10/29/2014

Knowing of your interest in veterans' issues, I wanted to let you know that I recently called upon Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Army Secretary John McHugh to immediately restore \$21 million in funding Congress intended for the Army National Guard Military Funerals Honors program.

In my letter, I told them there is simply no fiscal or moral way to justify a 44 percent reduction in a program that provides a small stipend for the soldiers and veterans who provide a final tribute to their comrades in all seasons, regardless of the weather or any other inconvenience they may encounter along the way.

The fact is – when brave patriots put their lives on the line for us, we owe more than can ever be repaid. The very least we can do is express our solemn gratitude for their ultimate dedication to our great nation by providing a proper salute. Senators Klobuchar and Franken have joined me in weighing in, and together we are determined to restore full funding to the Funerals Honors Program.

Here in the Congress I have consistently supported and voted for legislation that upholds America's permanent and sacred obligation to our veterans. For instance, I am a cosponsor of legislation enabling rural veterans to use local healthcare providers in their hometowns instead of travelling to the nearest big city for Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities. Additionally, I voted to increase funding for the VA by \$1.4 billion to help expand its health care services, and eliminate the unconscionable benefits backlog.

My office also has a dedicated team of constituent caseworkers that have gone to bat for Minnesota's 8th District veterans – obtaining deserved rightfully-earned benefits, assisting in navigating the VA bureaucracy, and holding the VA accountable to the highest quality of service and treatment. I am dedicated to one-on-one assistance for veterans that takes into consideration each person's unique circumstances and finds solutions that fit their individual needs. I am pleased to report that my office has closed out nearly one hundred unique cases to date and have made significant progress with dozens more.

Rest assured I will continue to be a strong advocate on behalf of our nation's veterans while here in the Congress and I hope that you will contact me in the future whenever I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick".

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress