



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

November 9, 2017

The Honorable David J. Shulkin
Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Shulkin,

I'm very appreciative of the work you and your staff do to serve our veterans. Arizona wants to be partners in that effort, which is why I'm writing today.

Our state is proud to be home to more than 600,000 veterans; more than 54,000 active duty military personnel; 7,600 citizen-soldiers of the Arizona National Guard; and 7,400 members of the Reserves. We greatly value their brave contributions to our nation. I know you do too.

One way we do that is through the State Homes for Veterans. They collectively serve 320 veterans – many from our Greatest Generation. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that our existing bed space is inadequate. Without additional action, by 2020 the state will have a shortage of more than 1,200 beds.

Therefore, since 2015, we have secured matching state appropriations of \$19.2 million for the construction of two additional State Veterans Homes. One is planned to be built in Yuma, which would serve 60 veterans in the Southwest region; and the other is planned to be built in Flagstaff, which would serve 60 veterans in the Northcentral region. Both locations would serve rural veteran populations that are located more than 100 miles from an existing Veteran Home. And both are awaiting matching federal dollars.

Additionally, we are interested in funding the construction of an additional home, which would serve the particular needs of veterans in the rural Northwestern region.

As you know, the longer it takes to break ground on these projects, the more expensive they become.

The Honorable David J. Shulkin

November 9, 2017

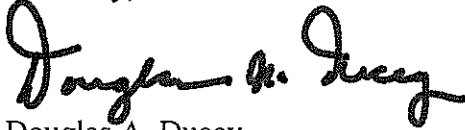
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I know there are many priorities across the country, and that veterans in all corners of America have needs. However, I respectfully request that your office work to prioritize these projects in our state, so that we can provide the necessary services to the veterans who have so bravely and courageously served our country and defended our freedoms.

The sooner we can secure these dollars, the sooner we can ensure our veterans are repaid for the service they've provided to our great nation.

Thank you for your support in this important project, and for all you do day in and day out to serve our veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Douglas A. Ducey

Governor

State of Arizona