



July 18, 2011

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki,

Recent media reports allege that the Director of the Houston National Cemetery has prohibited direct references to God and Jesus during funeral services, even if the family of the deceased wishes to name God or Jesus during the ceremony. If true, representatives of your agency may be engaging in an unconstitutional curtailment of religious liberty and freedom of expression.

U.S. Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn have each requested an investigation of the Houston National Cemetery. **We join Senators Hutchison and Cornyn in respectfully requesting that you investigate the Houston National Cemetery, and National Cemeteries across the country, to ensure that the constitutional rights of veterans and their families are being upheld.**

Thank you for your service to the United States of America, and for your leadership on behalf of veterans.

Sincerely,

State Senator Bob Deuell
Senate District 2

State Senator Craig Estes
Senate District 30

State Senator Dan Patrick
Senate District 7

State Senator Tommy Williams
Senate District 4

State Representative Charles "Doc" Anderson
House District 56

State Representative Bill Callegari
House District 132



State Representative Warren Chisum
House District 88



State Representative Tom Craddick
House District 82



State Representative Kelly Hancock
House District 91



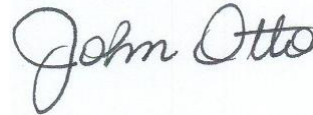
State Representative Linda Harper-Brown
House District 105



State Representative Phil King
House District 61



State Representative Geanie Morrison
House District 30



State Representative John Otto
House District 18



State Representative Tan Parker
House District 63



State Representative Van Taylor
House District 66

Cc: The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, United States Senator
The Honorable John Cornyn, United States Senator
W. Scott Gould, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs