

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 21, 2011

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

Secretary Shinseki,

We are writing to request that you immediately remove Ms. Arleen Ocasio from her position as Director of the Houston National Cemetery and transfer her to a position outside the state of Texas.

We have included as attachments to this letter 22 affidavits confirming the denial of basic First Amendment rights by members of the Houston National Cemetery staff. We are outraged that the cemetery staff, under Ms. Ocasio's direction, has restricted the free speech of patriotic members of veterans' service organizations as they join in mourning the loss of the service members interred at the Houston National Cemetery.

We are also requesting your personal assurance that the chapel at the Houston National Cemetery remain open permanently and that any religious objects or symbols that were removed from the chapel be restored to their original location. Finally, we are asking for your assurance that the chapel's carillon remain in operation, fulfilling its original purpose.

Thank you for complying with our requests in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



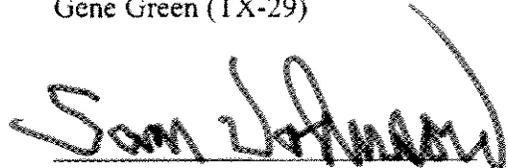
John A. Culberson (TX-07)



Ted Poe (TX-02)



Gene Green (TX-29)


TX-3

Kyle G TX-11

Pat Olin TX-22

Ron Eatta, OH-5 Tim Muzley PA-18

Blake Farntrop TX-7

John Carter

AK Jones

Mr. J. H.

Tim Hudleap KS-01

Quinn Jones TX-23

Kenyon TX-19

Lamar Smith TX-21

Joe Barton TX-6

Ralph M. Hall TX-4

Z. F. Brown TX-8

W. L. M. Z. TX-18

Jefferson TX-5

Pier Stone TX-17

Ed Smart TX-7

Henry Albert TX-38

Thelma TX-24

Virginia Fox NC-05