

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 23, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

We are writing you in regards to the State Home Construction Grant program, specifically the application of Montgomery County, Tennessee for a new 120-bed nursing home and 20-bed Alzheimer's unit.


As the home of one of the largest military installations in the country, Ft. Campbell, there is a tremendous need for additional veterans care services in Clarksville/Montgomery County. Due to the high quality of life and growing economy, many soldiers continue to make Clarksville their home after their retirement or term of enlistment is complete. According to the most recent Census Bureau data, over 23% of the adult population in Montgomery County is a veteran of the Armed Forces. The data also shows that the veteran population is aging rapidly, creating additional pressure on VA's ability to meet the needs of Clarksville's veterans.

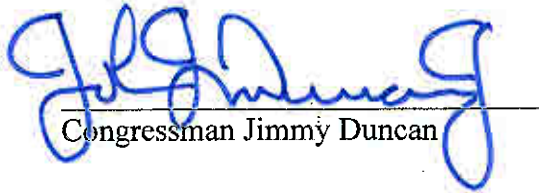
On November 7, 2008, VA recognized this need by placing the application for a grant in Priority Group One, rank number 70, for fiscal year (FY) 2009 funding. As we understand, projects ranked one through 68 would receive funding in FY 2009.

As FY 2009 comes to a close, we ask you to examine those projects ranked one through 68 in Priority Group One. If, for any reason, the VA concludes that any of these projects cannot be awarded or, should the Department accrue funds for the purposes of this program through recapture of grant monies – we urge you to act expeditiously in obligating funds by October 1, 2009, to the Montgomery County, TN State Nursing Home Project.

Sincerely,


Congressman Marsha Blackburn


Congressman John Tanner



Congressman Jimmy Duncan



Congressman Phil Roe



Congressman Zach Wamp



Congressman Lincoln Davis