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001	Letter	[Letter from Daniel K. Akaka] - To: POTUS - From: Daniel K. Akaka, et al	2	12/21/2007	Transferred

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 21, 2007

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742812
FG027

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to send forward a formal budget request for the Department of Veterans Affairs for \$3.7 billion over your initial budget request, in accordance with the terms of the Combined Appropriations Act, 2008 (CAA). This level of funding is essential to provide adequate services to America's veterans.

As a nation, we are facing a wide range of challenges in meeting the needs of those who have served in the armed forces. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are creating a significant new population of veterans. Those who served in earlier wars are becoming older, and their demand for health care and other services is changing and increasing.

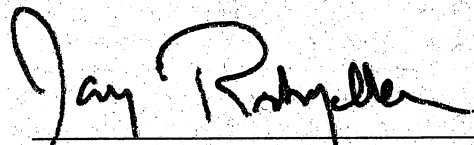
The Department of Veterans Affairs must rise to meet these new demands. Providing the full level of appropriated funds to VA will ensure, among other things, that the Department will be able to provide timely access to services, furnish improved mental health services, and develop the needed capacity to handle the massive claims backlog. These concerns, and many others facing VA, must be addressed in the coming year, and the full amount of funding in the CAA for VA must be provided as soon as feasible so that VA can take action to better serve our nation's veterans, young and old.

We appreciate your commitment to America's veterans, and again urge you to send forward a formal budget request for the full funding prior to January 18, 2007. We look forward to working with you in the coming year to advance our mutual goals.

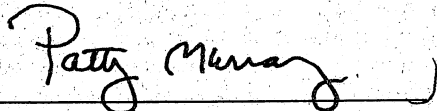
Sincerely,



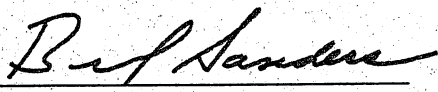
DANIEL K. AKAKA
Chairman

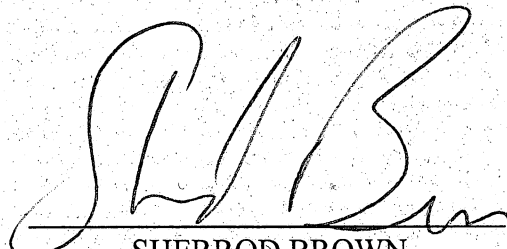


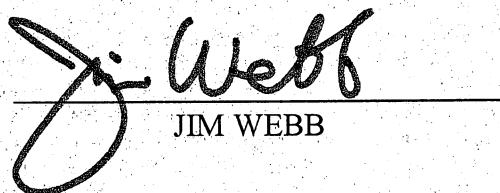
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