

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2404

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September 30, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

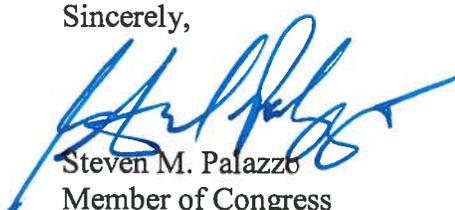
Mr. President,

As I am sure you aware, many states have pre-scheduled Honor Flights that allow our aging population of World War II veterans and their families to visit the memorials erected in their honor, free of charge. Most of these monuments, including the WWII memorial, are open to the public. However, my office has been informed by National Park Service officials that in the event of a government shutdown, the Department of Interior and National Park Service will barricade these monuments, closing them to our veterans and preventing access.

It would truly be devastating to our veterans that travel great lengths to share this experience with family and friends and see a piece of their own history. Additionally, it would require extra effort, expense, and personnel to put up these barricades and enforce these regulations on open-air monuments than it would to allow Honor Flight veterans to visit their memorial.

I request that you immediately instruct the Department of Interior and National Park Service to ensure that veterans are not denied access to monuments on the National Mall in the event of a government shutdown. It is the very least we can do for our Greatest Generation who sacrificed so much on behalf of our country.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress

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