SANDY ADAMS 24TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM, AND HOMELAND SECURITY

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 216 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 225-2706

> DISTRICT OFFICES: 2461 WEST SR 426 SUITE 1041 OVIEDO, FL 32765 (407) 977-7601

1000 City Center Circle 2nd Floor Port Orange, FL 32129 (386) 756-9798

Jerry Pierce Chairman Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 4303 Winter Park, FL 32793-4303

Dear Mr. Pierce.

The Orlando Veterans Affairs Medical Center is ranked second highest nationwide amongst all medical centers in terms of active patients, and the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park is a fitting way to honor those who have dedicated so much to our country. The memorial will pay tribute to approximately 1,100 veterans from Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia counties, and will provide a soothing respite to veterans recovering from past and present injuries, while offering a place of serenity for family members.

This memorial will complement the design of the Orlando Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Lake Nona by honoring those men and women who have fallen in the name of freedom and liberty. It is important to pay tribute to those who have sacrificed so much for their love of this country.

Honoring and attending to the needs and the wellbeing of our military servicemen and women, as well as their families, is among my highest priorities. Our military service members deserve nothing but the best we have to offer both on the battlefield and here at home.

When I think of such a memorial, I can't help but be drawn to what President Abraham Lincoln said in the Gettysburg Address:

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

I am honored and humbled by the sacrifice these veterans made for their country. I offer my support for the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park, not only because I believe we must continue to honor our men and women in uniform in both life and death, but also because we should demand nothing less from ourselves as the direct beneficiaries of their sacrifice.

Sincerely,

Sandy Adams

Member of Congress