

May 6, 2014

The Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Veteran Affairs
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Michaud
Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Veteran Affairs
Washington DC 20515-6537

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Michaud:

Any negligent deaths of veterans are unforgivable, but especially those whose accesses to Department of Veterans Affairs health care system were denied because of bureaucratic mismanagement. The 56 thousand members of the Reserve Officers Association and the Reserve Enlisted Association feel there is a need to take action against those senior service executives who have allowed such dereliction to occur.

The Reserve Officers Association and the Reserve Enlisted Association support H.R.4031, the "*Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability Act of 2014.*" and encourage a House vote in the near future.

The Secretary of the Department of Veteran Affairs needs tools to discourage the pattern of poor performance that is ongoing within his department. Public examples need to be made, especially in the cases where veterans' health have been put at risk.

The incident in Phoenix, Arizona is just the latest in a series of mismanagement to impact the health care treatment for veterans. Bad management by any federal agency should face penalties for malfeasance.

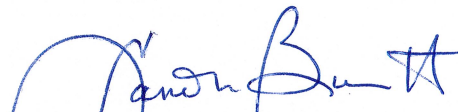
While Secretary Shinseki already claims to have tools under current law and regulations to address the performance of SES managers who have not met acceptable standards, at best they are not being effectively used. Transferring or even promoting those who create problems for VA beneficiaries into new positions of responsibility is not the solution.

Thank you for your ongoing support for those who have served in uniform. If you have any further questions about ROA's position or any other issues, please contact ROA's legislative director, CAPT Marshall Hanson, USNR (ret.) at (202) 646-7713, or email him at mhanson@roa.org.

Sincerely,



Andrew B. Davis, Major General, USMC (Ret)
Reserve Officers Association
National Executive Director



Lani Burnett, CMSgt, USAF (Ret).
Reserve Enlisted Association
Executive Director