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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 21, 2020

The Honorable Randy Reeves Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20301

Dear Under Secretary Reeves:

I am writing to inform you of an unfortunate incident that occurred at Mountview Cemetery in Billings, Montana. On September 20, 2020, a Sport Utility Vehicle crashed into the entrance of the cemetery and destroyed the upright, white marble headstones of 32 veterans. These headstones are located in an older section of the cemetery, and many are more than a half-century old.

In order to repair the headstones, Mountview Cemetery staff will need to submit paperwork for all 32 headstones. However, given the age of these headstones, and the fact most are completely shattered, Chris Waite, superintendent of Mountview Cemetery, has expressed concerns that it may be challenging to capture all of the correct information required. Therefore, I am requesting that you and your staff work directly with Mountview Cemetery and the City of Billings to repair and replace each of these damaged headstones. They represent the final resting ground of those who honorably served our country, and they must be restored as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jon Tester

United States Senator

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