

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5000

December 11, 2024

The Honorable Denis McDonough
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20420

Re: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony Inquiry

Dear Secretary McDonough,

I am writing to inquire about the reasoning and details behind the VA's decision to host a Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony at the Northern Colorado VA Clinic on November 20th.¹

At a time when my office remains inundated with correspondence from Wyoming veterans of all backgrounds conveying their struggles obtaining timely healthcare and rightfully owed benefits, it is perturbing that the VA has decided to expend official resources to continue advancing a polarizing and misguided social agenda. This event also comes as the VA did not attend the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Cheyenne National Cemetery earlier this year.²

It is with these concerns in mind that I request you answer the following questions by no later than January 11th, 2025.

1. Given that this ceremony was publicized on the Cheyenne VA's website, were Wyoming veterans or Veteran Service Organizations consulted before hosting this event?
2. How much in taxpayer dollars did the VA spend to host this event?
3. What other material resources did the VA allocate to host this event?
4. Were official VA staff present for this event?
5. What other participants were behind the hosting of this event?
6. What discussions or activities took place throughout the duration of the event?
7. How many individuals were in attendance throughout the event?
8. What is the source of funding for holding this or similar events?

Sincerely,



Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress

¹<https://www.va.gov/cheyenne-health-care/events/74611/>

²<https://cowboystatedaily.com/2024/09/11/botched-memorial-day-ceremony-at-cheyenne-national-cemetery-was-miscommunication/>