

DIANE BLACK  
6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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September 1, 2016

The Honorable Eric Fanning  
Secretary of Army  
United States Army  
1600 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310

CC: U.S. Army Center of Military History  
Mr. Greg Gardner, Chief of Repatriation

Dear Secretary Fanning:

We write to you urging your full support in ensuring that the remains of the 11 U.S. soldiers who fought in the Battle of Monterrey, Mexico in 1846 be returned home to Tennessee for proper burial.

After conversations with your staff, we understand that the remains may be classified as “unknowns”, requiring the final burial location to be a National Cemetery. It is our wish that these remains are laid to rest at the Mexican War Memorial in the Gallatin City Cemetery located in Gallatin, Tennessee. If this is not feasible, we ask that you and your team strongly consider the Nashville National Cemetery, Chattanooga National Cemetery, or the Memphis National Cemetery in Tennessee.

During archaeological excavations between 1995 and 2011, Mexico’s Institute of National Anthropology and History discovered the bodies of Tennessee Volunteers from General Zachary Taylor’s army who fought proudly in the Mexican-American War. The skeletal remains are currently being held by the Mexican government in Mexico City, Mexico. My hope is that with your assistance, these brave Tennesseans are returned in a timely fashion and given a proper burial in their home state.

We remain eager to assist in ensuring the speedy and just resolution of this matter, and will do whatever is required to see these soldiers returned to Tennessee. Having heard from many constituents, local journalists and historians about the discovery and desire to see the Tennessee Volunteers brought home, it is our hope that this issue is resolved as soon as possible.

Please inform us on the status of this matter, and what the next steps are in securing the return of these soldiers for final burial in Tennessee. Hillary Lassiter, in the office of Congressman Diane Black, is the point of contact for this project and can be reached at (202) 225-4231 or [Hillary.Lassiter@mail.house.gov](mailto:Hillary.Lassiter@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



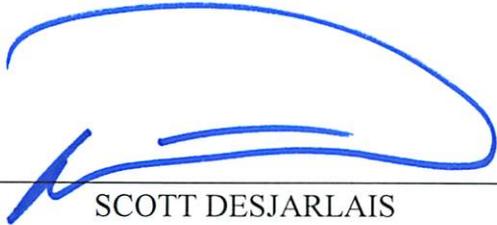
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DIANE BLACK  
Member of Congress



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LAMAR ALEXANDER  
United States Senator



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SCOTT DESJARLAIS  
Member of Congress