



August 3, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Secretary Hegseth,

We, the undersigned members of the New Democrat Coalition, write regarding recent reports that the Pentagon removed the names of four fallen U.S. service members from the official casualty list for Operation Epic Fury – an indefensible decision that dishonors their service and diminishes their sacrifice. We demand an immediate explanation and reversal.

On July 22, 2026, the Defense Casualty Analysis System listed 18 American service members who had died during the conflict with Iran. The following day, the Department of Defense (DoD), reduced that number to 14, excluding four soldiers killed between July 17 and July 19. According to reporting by the New York Times and multiple other sources, three military officials stated that the change was made because these deaths occurred after the alleged cease-fire that had been declared in April.¹ The Pentagon acting press secretary blamed the change on “temporary data disruptions.” These contradictory explanations demand an immediate clarification.

The four service members who were removed from the list are 1st Lt. Tyler Feehan, Pvt. Isabella Gonzales, Sgt. Angel S. Rampersad, and Sgt. Michael Emmanuel Swinton. The DoD’s own public reporting states their deaths were connected to Iranian aggression.² In addition, you, President Trump, and senior military leaders attended the dignified transfer of their remains at Dover Air Force Base on July 22.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/23/us/politics/iran-troop-deaths.html>

² <https://www.war.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4552653/nations-leaders-honor-the-fallen-during-dignified-transfer/>

Yet, these four brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice were removed from the Pentagon's official accounting of casualties. This is unacceptable. We demand an immediate explanation to the change and a correction to the list of casualties on the DoD's website to reflect the four names that were removed. Our fallen soldiers gave their lives while serving their country in a war that Congress never authorized and that both the House and Senate have voted to end. Their sacrifice cannot be erased or diminished. The Department must restore their names to the list without delay.

Sincerely,



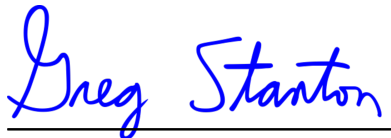
Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



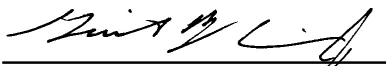
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



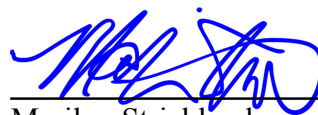
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



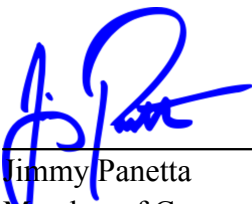
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



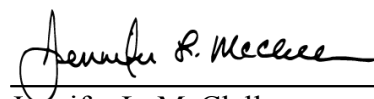
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



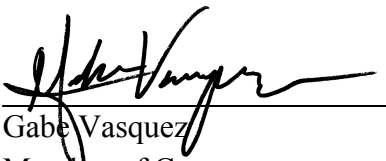
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



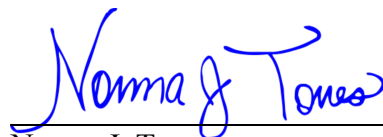
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



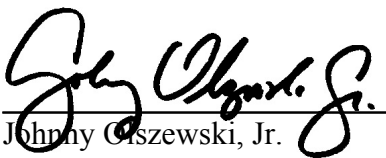
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress



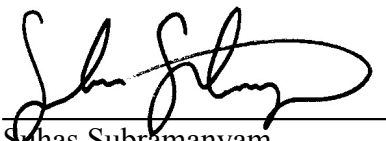
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



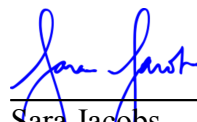
Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



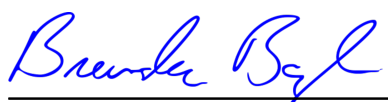
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



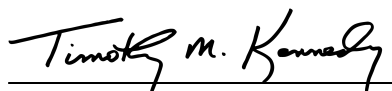
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



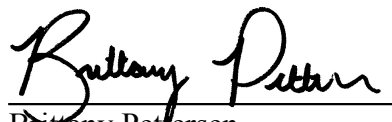
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



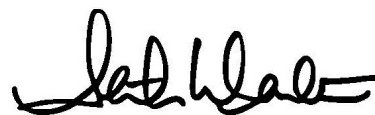
Susie Lee
Member of Congress



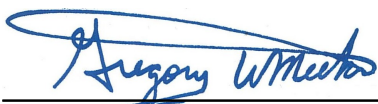
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Brittany Petersen
Member of Congress



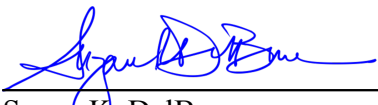
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



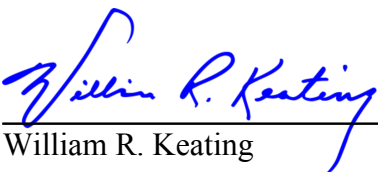
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



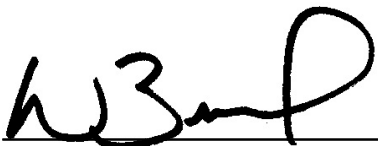
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



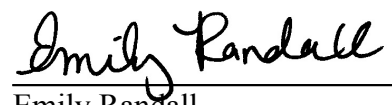
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



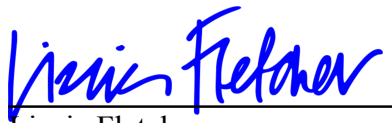
Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress