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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 9, 2005

The Honorable Lane Evans
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Evans:

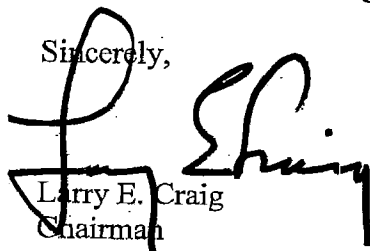
We received your letter, co-signed by the Democratic members who serve on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, regarding the decision to terminate joint legislative hearings on presentations by Veteran Service Organizations.

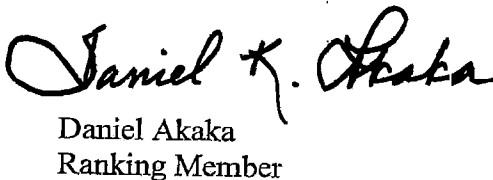
Since learning of the decision to no longer participate in the traditional Joint Hearing schedule, we have consulted with the members of our Committee to determine the best way to proceed during the Second Session of the 109th Congress. We have decided to hold Senate hearings to receive the legislative presentations. These Senate hearings will coincide with interested organizations' visits to Washington, DC in the Spring and Fall of 2006.

We would like to have as much participation as possible by elected officials at these hearings. Like all hearings of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, our VSO legislative presentation hearings will be open to the public. If an elected member of the House of Representatives attends our proceedings, we will be pleased to extend the appropriate courtesy to that member. Due to time constraints, however, priority will be given to members of our Committee.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee during the second session to address the needs of America's veterans.

Sincerely,


Larry E. Craig
Chairman


Daniel Akaka
Ranking Member