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May 5, 2008

Mr. William F. Tuerk  
Department of Veteran Affairs  
Undersecretary for memorial Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Undersecretary Tuerk:

Thank you for looking into the case involving my constituent, Mr. Richard Rohde and the USS Samuel B. Roberts Survivors Association monument at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego California.

I am asking the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to bring the case to a positive conclusion by authorizing The USS Samuel B. Roberts Survivors Association to cover their section of the aforementioned monument with their bronze plaque.

Please note that Mr. Rohde has carefully read your recent response to my inquiry and has taken the liberty to call the Mr. Glen Foster, Chairman of the Johnston/Hoel/Roberts Monument Committee. As you can read in the attached letter, Mr. Foster will not agree to cover his portion of the monument, leaving Mr. Rohde with a bronze plaque and an uncovered and deteriorating monument to his fallen shipmates.

My constituent, Mr. Rohde has done is due diligence from the outset of this process. After being told by the VA that he could place the plaque on the monument, he was later told by the VA he could not. The USS Samuel B. Roberts Survivors Association has assumed the monetary and emotional cost of building the plaque and preserving this monument. This organization and my constituent should not be held back from preserving their section of this monument by another organization that lacks the compunction to do the same.

Therefore, I respectfully request the VA move forward and allow Mr. Rohdes on behalf of the USS Samuel B. Roberts Survivors to upgrade the monument by placing the bronze plaque over their existing portion of the monument.



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