



JANET NGUYEN

SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

February 26, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

America's brave service members and veterans have sacrificed everything to protect our freedom for 225 years. Seeing homeless veterans struggle to get medical care and a place to live is heartbreaking. I was particularly uplifted by a speech you gave titled, "[Ending Veteran Homelessness in America](#)," where you pledged to help these heroes of society.

Knowing that servicemembers are one of your priorities, I am asking that you consider issuing an executive order requiring the VA to comply with a [post-trial opinion from October 2024](#) written by US District Court Judge David O. Carter and a 2015 order by Judge S. James Otero.

Judges Otero and Carter ordered a total of 3,000 permanent housing structures with Judge Carter adding immediate construction of 750 temporary units. To date, only 300 have been built, according to court records.

Judge Carter is a Vietnam War hero with a Purple Heart and congressional Medal of Valor.

The West LA VA is involved in illegal land usage on their property, which was deeded by a Civil War veteran to the United States 100 years ago, Judge Carter ruled. The sole purpose of the property was to house and care for veterans.

The VA Inspector General even stated that the agency is violating the original deed and has not built housing as required by the 2015 Otero federal court. Three VA secretaries have discussed the site, including [Robert Wilkie](#) from your first administration in 2019. All have promised to build housing but this has not occurred, Judge Carter wrote.

"One of the saddest sights I've seen in my career is in West Los Angeles...there's no place for them to live," Secretary Wilkie said. "My job is to get the people who shouldn't be there off (the land)."

More than 3,000 veterans sleep on the streets of California – even directly outside the gates of the VA. The West LA campus is the fourth largest VA Medical Center in the nation, with a premier brain trauma center for PTSD, brain injuries and more. It attracts patients across the nation, including veterans from my district in Orange County and throughout Southern California.

Most VA medical centers do not have a dedicated housing complex, but West LA does. Veterans obtain better care when they can be close to their doctors and socialize with other veterans. My district in Orange County is home to approximately 130,000 veterans, many whom have utilized this facility or sought shelter there, VA advocates have told my office.

President Trump, please help our veterans by fast-tracking construction of this housing. Appeals and red tape can last for decades while homeless veterans stare through black wrought iron gates at the property that they own.

A copy of Judge Carter's opinion is attached. Please contact me if I can be of assistance at 714-834-5887 or Janet.Nguyen@ocgov.com.

Sincerely,



Janet Nguyen
Supervisor, First District
Orange County Board of Supervisors

cc: Doug Collins, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs
Chris Syrek, Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs