

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2202

October 1, 2013

Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director - National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

I am deeply concerned by the barriers that have been erected by the National Park Service (NPS) surrounding America's treasured memorials and monuments in Washington D.C. The World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the Korean War Veterans Memorial are all open-air monuments that the public has constant access to regardless of the presence of NPS personnel.

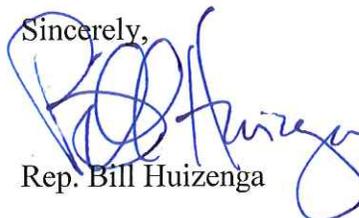
As funding lapsed for the federal government at midnight on October 1, the NPS used taxpayer dollars in the form of time, personnel, and resources to stop American veterans from visiting a memorial that they fought and many of their friends died for. The decision to prevent our veterans from accessing a memorial honoring their service is a regrettable mistake and one that I hope was not politically motivated.

I believe that it is absolutely ridiculous that barriers have been placed on a sidewalk in order to force the closure of an open-air park. Therefore, earlier today, I joined nearly 100 World War II veterans who did not let blockades put in place by the NPS stop them from entering the open-air World War II Memorial.

It is my understanding that the House of Representatives will soon be voting on the Open Our National Parks and Museums Act, a bill that will provide funding to keep America's national parks and memorials open to the public. I urge you to call on the United States Senate and implore them to pass this bill immediately.

I believe that all our American heroes who fought and served our great nation, as well as all American citizens, should be allowed to visit the memorials built to commemorate their sacrifice as well the sacrifice of their loved ones. I hope you honor them and their service by encouraging Congress and the President to reopen our nation's parks, monuments, and memorials.

*Thank you
for your personal
attention!*

Sincerely,

Rep. Bill Huizenga