Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2014

Honorable Eric Shinseki
Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs
1722 I St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20421

Dear Secretary Shinseki,

The United States of America has the most formidable military in history not because of our equipment or munitions, but because of the brave men and women who fill its ranks. For your service to this nation, you will forever have our gratitude. However, developments at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that have recently come to light are troubling at best and criminal at worst.

The recent allegation that a "secret list" was being used at the Phoenix VA Medical Center to manipulate wait time data, and that it may have directly contributed to the deaths of at least forty veterans, is deeply troubling. This concern is compounded by similar allegations that are being echoed throughout the country of intentional scheduling misconduct and subsequent deaths related to extended wait times.

In our home state, the great State of Florida, there are nine VA Medical Centers (VAMC), and over forty VA Outpatient Clinics, that provide services to over 1.5 million veterans. Numerous reports of misconduct have already been reported within our State's VMACs, and if the past few weeks are any indication, more are certain to follow. This alone is an indication of a systemic problem plaguing the VA that has been allowed to perpetuate, and it has occurred under your leadership.

Reports of "secret lists" and skirting rules and guidelines among VA employees fly in the face of the organization's stated goal of protecting our nation's veterans. Ensuring that our veterans receive the care they need should be the foundation upon which the entire organization is built. These allegations shake that foundation, and betray the very core of your mission.

The misconduct that has happened under your leadership breaches the sacred trust between a veteran and the nation they risked their lives to protect. As a veteran yourself, surely you understand the gravity of VA officials falsifying records to make it seem as though our nation's veterans are receiving the care they need. Veterans have died as a result of the gross negligence of your department. It is with this in mind that we ask for your resignation as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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This request does not come lightly. However, the misconduct that has happened under your watch leaves us with little choice. We have a commitment to our veterans and their families to ensure accountability and justice. We must fight for those who fought for us, and honor their service to this great nation.

Sincerely,

Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress

Steve Southerland
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

Dennis Ross
Member of Congress

Richard Nugent
Member of Congress