

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 18, 2012

The Honorable Eric H. Holder  
U.S. Attorney General  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

The latest development in the case involving the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial raises serious concerns about the future of the Memorial and its identity to the San Diego community. Yesterday's unexpected joint filing by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), requesting postponement of the July 26 hearing, revealed that both parties have entered into settlement negotiations pertaining to the Memorial. Not only do we wish to express our frustration that we were unaware of these negotiations, but we insist that the Mount Soledad Memorial Association be included in all discussions from this point forward, as well as provided a full account of negotiations to date.

Defending the Memorial in its entirety is the obligation of DOJ, but given the position of the ACLU to dismantle the Memorial, and previous delays in the legal process and uncertainty created throughout, the Memorial Association will provide critical and much needed balance at the negotiating table. Should DOJ choose not to allow the Mount Soledad Memorial Association to participate in these negotiations, it is our recommendation that independent counsel be appointed to ensure the Memorial is rightly defended in accordance to P.L. 109-272. Absent the presence of the Memorial Association, it would be inappropriate for DOJ to engage any further in representing the federal government in the effort to prevent any removal or modification of the Memorial.

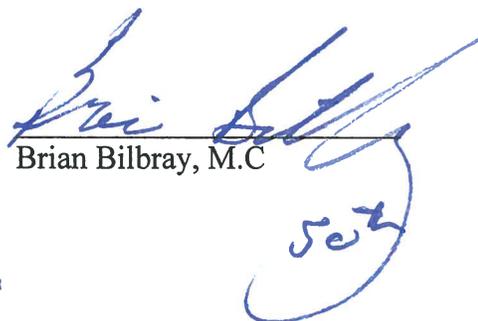
Further, we respectfully request a meeting with the relevant DOJ officials to discuss recent developments and other issues involving the Memorial. It is our intention to confirm a meeting as soon as possible, so we look forward to an immediate response for at least the purpose of coordinating a date and time.

Since it was erected, the Memorial has stood as a reminder of selflessness and sacrifice. We owe it to our men and women in uniform, past and present, to protect the Memorial and ensure future generations never forget the great cost of defending and preserving freedom over the course of our nation's history.

Sincerely,



Duncan Hunter, M.C.



Brian Bilbray, M.C.