



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0916

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for a Veterans Service Center in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Manatee County Government, located at 1112 Manatee Ave West, Bradenton, Florida, 34205.

The funding would be used to support the construction of a 12,000-square-foot Veterans Service Center providing centralized benefits assistance, job training and placement, access to mental health and recovery services, and coordination with Veterans Service Organizations, along with the development of a Veterans memorial park honoring all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and participants in American conflicts, a community services and veterans support component of the Manatee County Veterans Service Center Project.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the project will centralize veteran-focused services, workforce support, and community space in a single coordinated location, improving access to benefits and strengthening reintegration outcomes for veterans and their families.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress