



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

Eric Bunn Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

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NVP for Women & Fair Practices

April 21, 2020

Honorable Robert Wilkie, Jr.
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Office of the Secretary, United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Room 1000
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Secretary Wilkie:

The COVID-19 crisis engulfing the Nation has called for sacrifices by many federal employees. At the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), health care providers including physicians, nurses and other front-line employees, are caring for veterans who are suffering from the effects of COVID-19. Because of their heroic efforts, too many of these employees have fallen ill with the COVID-19 virus, and some have even died.

Therefore, we request that in recognition of the ultimate sacrifice made by VA employees who, while serving their Country, have died as a result of COVID-19 infection, that you as Secretary, utilize your authority under the Civilian Service Recognition Act of 2011, Pub. L. 112-73, to present a United States flag to the beneficiary of the deceased as a way to formally express sympathy and gratitude on behalf of the Nation.

The current crisis has highlighted the work and severe sacrifices made by so many federal employees. It is only fitting that those who have fallen as a result of their dedication to duty be recognized accordingly.

Sincerely,

Everett B. Kelley
AFGE National President

