

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

June 17, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Denis McDonough  
US Department of Veterans Affairs  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Secretary McDonough:

We write today to ask the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to raise the Roseburg Veterans' Home to the Priority 1 List and to prioritize funding from the VA State Home Construction Program for the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) Roseburg Veterans Home project in Fiscal Year 2025.

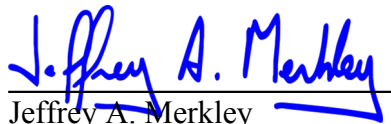
ODVA currently operates two high-quality, award-winning state veterans' homes in Oregon: the Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles, a 151-bed skilled nursing facility, and the Edward C. Allworth Veterans Home in Lebanon, a 154-bed assisted living facility. These facilities provide skilled and long-term nursing care, memory care, and rehabilitative care to veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents, allowing veterans to live in a culture of community with fellow veterans and those with shared military experience. These homes—designed to meet the unique needs of aging and disabled veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents—are lauded as national models for State run veterans' homes.

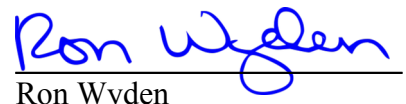
While Oregon is fortunate to have two state veterans' homes, the state has been working diligently toward a third veterans' home – to be constructed in Roseburg, Oregon - for over a decade. This home is needed now more than ever. Roseburg is the county seat of Douglas County, Oregon – a largely rural community with a sizable veteran population. Current estimates suggest that Douglas County is home to over 10,000 veterans, many of whom served in the Vietnam War era or earlier. This new facility would provide an affordable, high-quality long-term care option for the 68,000 veterans across the VA Southern Oregon Healthcare System service area which includes Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lake counties in Oregon as well as Siskiyou and Del Norte counties in California.


In 2024, the Oregon State Legislature secured \$35 million toward this project in an effort to secure the remaining \$65 million from the VA. The ODVA has transmitted documentation certifying that all necessary state funds are available for this project as required by federal regulations.

We urge you to move quickly and raise the status of the Roseburg Veterans' Home to Priority 1 so that it will be competitive for funding in Fiscal Year 2025. This would enable our state to fulfill its promise to meet the needs of veterans in Southern Oregon and honor their service to our nation.

Sincerely,

  
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

  
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

  
Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress