GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

July 31, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Frist,

I am writing in support of Representative Duncan Hunter's Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial Protection Act (H.R. 5863), which transfers possession of the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California, to the federal government. This bill passed the House of Representatives with broad bipartisan support. I know you share my commitment to honor the service of our nation's veterans and to support the men and women of the U.S. military. That is why I am asking for your support to insure this legislation is passed quickly by the Senate to preserve this monument to our veterans.

The Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial is a historic landmark that has been an important part of the San Diego community since it was erected over 50 years ago to commemorate military service and sacrifices in World War I, World War II and the Korean War. The Memorial also expresses the pride and strong support for those who serve in our military felt by all Californians. The Memorial now pays tribute to veterans of all wars and proudly bears the names of nearly 2,000 service men and women on its walls.

Allowing this landmark to be destroyed, as is sought by the plaintiffs in a pending court case, would send the wrong message to our nation's veterans and to those men and women who are currently serving to defend our nation at home and around the world. The transfer of the

Memorial to the federal government proposed in this bill would allow it to stand as a permanent reminder to all of our appreciation of the cost paid by those who serve to keep our nation free.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger

cc: The Honorable Jerry Sanders
The Honorable Duncan Hunter

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