

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

August 28, 2007

Ms. Stacy Bannerman  
The Sanctuary for Veterans & Families  
PO Box 3661  
Kent, Washington 98089

Dear Ms. Bannerman:

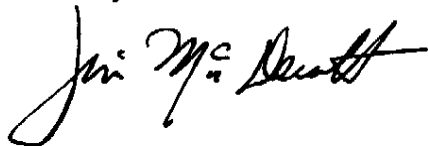
I am writing to convey my best wishes to you and all involved with The Sanctuary for Veterans & Families, and appreciate that these services will be available to veterans and military families in the Seventh Congressional District. As a psychiatrist and veteran I know that the transition to civilian life for veterans is a personal hardship that deeply affects the entire family.

According to a recent report from the Government Accountability Office, an estimated one in six service members will receive a diagnosis for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Unfortunately, the report does not provide figures of the impact of the war on their families' mental health. However, I understand that you and many of the families involved in this endeavor know the personal cost of war.

I commend your commitment to create a safe space in Western Washington that will serve veterans *and* their families dealing with the traumas of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Research based direct support and mental health services provided to veterans and their families in a rural retreat center will be a much needed respite that will aid in the healing and recovery from the invisible wounds of war.

My best wishes to you as you make The Sanctuary for Veterans & Families a reality.

Sincerely



JIM McDERMOTT  
Member of Congress