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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

May 17, 2016

The Honorable Robert McDonald
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald,

Yesterday, I saw Jake Tapper's CNN expose on the National Vietnam Veterans Foundation (NVVF), a charity led by a Veterans Affairs (VA) employee J. Thomas Burch. As CNN reports, in the past 5 years NVVF has taken in \$29 million in donations and spent less than 2 percent on veterans. According to Charity Navigator, which audits thousands of charities in the United States, NVVF spends 90 percent of its over \$8 million revenue on fundraising expenses, and is one of the most inefficient charities in the country.

In addition to running this allegedly fraudulent charity, J. Thomas Burch serves as Deputy Director in the Office of General Counsel at the VA, where he makes taxpayer-funded salary of \$127,000 a year and drives to work every day in a Rolls Royce with a license plate that reads, "My Rolls."

Mr. Secretary, I hope you are as outraged as I am that the VA continues to employ someone who repeatedly cheats veterans out of their money and the services he promises them. This is a disgrace to the over 80,000 veterans who live in the Third District of North Carolina—many of whom served in Vietnam--and taxpayers all over the country. In light of his years-long abuse of money meant to help veterans, Mr. Burch should resign from the VA immediately. Veterans are crying out for accountability in the VA, and making sure Mr. Burch is dismissed would go a long way to earn back the trust of those who have put their lives on the line for our country. They deserve better. I look forward to learning of Mr. Burch's resignation.

Sincerely,


Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

cc: Michael J. Missal, VA Inspector General