

KEN CALVERT
42ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2205 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0542
(202) 225-1986
FAX: (202) 225-2004

DISTRICT OFFICE:
400 SOUTH VICENTIA AVENUE
SUITE 125
CORONA, CA 92882
(951) 277-0042
FAX: (951) 277-0420



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING REPUBLICAN
DEFENSE

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

WWW.CALVERT.HOUSE.GOV
FACEBOOK.COM/REPKENCALVERT
@KENCALVERT

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Mark D. Esper
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Esper,

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic requires a whole-of-government response and I was pleased to hear that the Department of Defense would be sending two naval hospital ships, the USNS Mercy and the USNS Comfort, to U.S. ports to help relieve our medical system. I am requesting that the USNS Mercy, currently based in San Diego, CA, be stationed at the Port of Los Angeles through at least September 1, 2020.

As you are aware, California has been one of the states hit hardest by COVID-19 and from what we know of the virus, cases will most likely exponentially increase over the next few weeks. Right now, the State of California is under mandatory restrictions on leaving the house. Even so, without assistance, the impacts the virus will have on our health care system will be dire.

With approximately ten million people in the greater Los Angeles area, the deployment of the USNS Mercy will provide desperately needed relief for our medical system in the Los Angeles area. The 1000 patient beds, and the associated care, on the USNS Mercy, which could be deployed as quickly as five days, would provide critical overflow capacity for non-COVID-19 related illnesses.

Thank you for your leadership in this global pandemic. The men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces continue to make all Americans proud and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Calvert".

KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress