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**Congress of the United States**  
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March 12, 2014

Col. Mike Prendergast  
Executive Director  
Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs  
11351 Ulmerton Road, #311-K  
Largo, Florida 33778-1630

Re: Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans' Homes Program

Dear Colonel Prendergast:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of St. Lucie County's efforts to obtain a Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA) grant. The St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners along with the St. Lucie County Veterans Services Office have identified a need in St. Lucie and the surrounding counties where the veteran population can be better served.

Obtaining these much needed grant funds from the FDVA will assist St. Lucie County in its mission to providing exemplary health care, follow-up assistance and long-term care services to its veteran residents. The proposed nursing home site will benefit not only St. Lucie County veterans but will incorporate veterans residing in Martin, Indian River, Okeechobee, and Highlands Counties. The location will also serve portions of six other nearby counties with the ability to reach approximately 211,647 veterans, more than half of these veterans are over the age of 65.

I respectfully request you give St. Lucie County's application fair consideration in your selection process as the county strives to better serve America's veterans. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance in this matter at (561) 253-8433.

Respectfully,

Patrick E. Murphy  
Member of Congress

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