

MAX ROSE  
11TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

1529 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3371

STATEN ISLAND OFFICE:  
265 NEW DORP LANE, SECOND FLOOR  
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306  
TELEPHONE: (718) 667-3313

BROOKLYN OFFICE:  
8203 3RD AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, NY 11209  
TELEPHONE: (718) 306-5500

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3211

August 15, 2019

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND  
SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERTERRORISM,  
CHAIRMAN  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE  
AND RECOVERY  
COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HEALTH  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear President Trump:

I am writing today to request that artist Scott LoBaido's "22-13" Veterans' Suicide Awareness Art Installation be displayed on the White House lawn. The installation depicts 22 figures, 22 pairs of gold empty boots, and two 2's facing each other to create an empty heart to represent the 22 veterans we lose each day to suicide.

For the last 25 years, Mr. LoBaido has painted thousands of American flags on schools, homes, fire houses, police stations, and cars on Staten Island and throughout the country. He has created this art installation to raise awareness of the suicide crisis we are experiencing within our veteran-community. He traveled to 13 states, setting up the installation, and working with families who have lost loved ones to suicide.

This tragic trend of veterans' suicide is a national emergency that requires urgent action. After their service to this country, many veterans return home with irreparable damage, both physical and mental. In fact, the suicide rate among veterans is about twice as high as that of the average civilian, as approximately 6,000 veterans commit suicide each year. These shocking figures illustrate how our government has let down those who risked everything to defend this country. We should do everything in our power to ensure that these American heroes have access to the care they need. By displaying Scott LoBaido's work, we would highlight an issue that has gone unnoticed for far too long. Let's finally recognize that the status quo is unacceptable.

As art has been displayed on the White House lawn in the past, I hope that you will give this request the full consideration that it deserves. I look forward to working with you to increase awareness of veterans' suicide by ensuring installation of this project.

Sincerely,



Max Rose  
Member of Congress