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*Last Updated: 04/21/2023*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 9, 1984

File - Immigration -  
Vietnam Vets



MEMORANDUM FOR: PAULA DOBRIANSKY, NSC  
RICHARD CHILDRESS, NSC  
STEVE GALEBACH, OPD ✓  
LINDA BENNETT, OLA  
DOUG RIGGS, OPL

FROM: LINAS KOJELIS, OPL, Room 438 EOB, x2741 LK

SUBJECT: Suggested Photo-Op with Parents of Corporal  
Staniszewski

Attached, for your review, comments and recommendation, is a copy of a draft proposal for a Presidential photo-op with the parents of Corporal Staniszewski, a British national of Polish origin who died in Vietnam. OPL would like to recommend this event because of the interest within the Polish American community regarding this case. However, I have been advised that there are other similar cases pending, and that it may not be wise to establish a precedent.

Because this bill must be signed by October 15, I would greatly appreciate your comments by Noon October 10.

**DRAFT**

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

October 9, 1984

TO: FREDERICK J. RYAN

FROM: FAITH WHITTLESEY

PROPOSAL: For the President to invite parents of Corporal Wladyslaw Staniszewski for signing ceremony for H.R. 960 which awards their son U.S. citizenship posthumously.

BACKGROUND: Wladyslaw Staniszewski, a native of Poland and a national of Great Britain, was killed, at age 20, in action in the Republic of Vietnam on July 7, 1967, while serving as a corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps. Corporal Staniszewski was a resident alien of the United States at the time of his death. The Defense Department advises that Corporal Staniszewski served honorably during the 13 months that he was in the Marine Corps, and received the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. Corporal Staniszewski's parents have fought long and hard for their son to receive citizenship. Their fight has received national press attention and is of broad interest in the Polish-American community.

DATE: On or before October 15

LOCATION: The Oval Office DURATION: 5 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. and Mrs. Staniszewski, parents of Wladyslaw Staniszewski.

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The President would greet Mr. and Mrs. Staniszewski, sign the bill and pose for photographs.

RECOMMENDED BY: Faith Whittlesey

**DRAFT**

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 4, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM

EDWARD V. HICKEY, JR. *E.V.H.*

SUBJECT

Posthumous Citizenship for Servicemen killed  
in Vietnam

A list of the number of non-citizens killed in Vietnam is attached.

As regards the President's action to grant citizenship to all servicemen killed in Vietnam, the Counsel's office advised that legislation is required. An executive order is inappropriate.

Due to time constraints, it is virtually impossible to introduce legislation during the current session of Congress.

A recommended course of action is:

- In a public ceremony sign the enrolled private bill granting citizenship to Coporal Staniszewski.

- At the ceremony, the President's remarks would include a statement that he intends to introduce legislation in the 99th Congress which would grant citizenship to all non-citizen U.S. servicemen killed in Vietnam.

NSC, OPD, OSD General Counsel, John Rogers, Peter Rusthoven and Tom Donnelly concur in the above approach.

If you agree I would be delighted to coordinate the event with Scheduling, Speechwriting and Legislative Affairs.

10/4  
*JAB*  
Agree \_\_\_\_\_

Disagree \_\_\_\_\_

# NON-CITIZEN SERVICEMEN KILLED IN VIETNAM

Mexico	85	Australia	2
Canada	75	Venezuela	2
Germany	61	Nicaragua	2
Great Britian	21	Bolivia	2
Italy	19	St. Vincent	2
Cuba	19	Dominica	1
Philippines	14	British Virgin Islands	1
Hungary	10	Finland	1
Poland	10	Yugoslavia	1
Columbia	10	El Salvador	1
Ireland	9	Israel	1
Panama	8	Sweden	1
Dominican Republic	7	Iran	1
Japan	7	Denmark	1
Jamaica	7	Latvia	1
Trinidad	7	Samoa	1
Honduras	6	Spain	1
Austria	6	Cyprus	1
France	5	Brazil	1
Peru	4	Saipan	1
Ecuador	4	Tunisia	1
Guatemala	4	Liberia	1
Czechoslovakia	4	Netherland Antilles	1
Costa Rica	4	Ethiopia	1
Netherlands	4	Argentina	1
British West Indies	3	Madagascar	1
Haiti	2	Caroline Islands	1
Norway	2	British Honduras	1
Indonesia	2	Greece	1
Bahamas	2	Morocco	1
Portugal	2	Switzerland	1
Russia	2		
People's Republic of China	2		

TOTAL NON-CITIZENS 462

U. S. Army 341

U. S. Marine Corps 113

U. S. Navy 8

U. S. Air Force 0

TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTRIES 64

New! file - Immigration -  
Vietnam Vets

H. R. 960

# Ninety-eighth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the twenty-third day of January,  
one thousand nine hundred and eighty-four*

## An Act

To confer citizenship posthumously on Corporal Wladyslaw Staniszewski.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Corporal Wladyslaw Staniszewski, a national of Great Britain, who was killed in action on July 7, 1967, in the Republic of Vietnam while serving in the United States Marine Corps shall be held and considered to have been a citizen of the United States at the time of his death: Provided, That no benefits shall thereafter derive to survivors.*

*why?*

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

*Vice President of the United States and  
President of the Senate.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 27, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM EDWARD V. HICKEY, JR. *E.V.H.*

SUBJECT Posthumous Citizenship for  
Servicemen Killed in  
Vietnam

REFERENCE My memo of 27 September 1984

It may be of interest that one of the 113  
Marine non-citizens killed in Vietnam is a  
Medal of Honor recipient. His citation is  
attached.



JOSE FRANCISCO JIMENEZ

RANK AND ORGANIZATION: Lance Corporal, U. S. Marine Corps, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. PLACE AND DATE: Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam, 28 August 1969. ENTERED SERVICE AT: Phoenix, Arizona BORN: 20 March 1946, Mexico City, Mexico. CITATION: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a fire team leader with Company K, in operations against the enemy. L/Cpl Jimenez' unit came under heavy attack by North Vietnamese soldiers concealed in well camouflaged emplacements. L/Cpl Jimenez' reacted by seizing the initiative and plunging forward toward the enemy positions. He personally destroyed several enemy personnel and silenced an antiaircraft weapon. Shouting encouragement to his companions, L/Cpl Jimenez continued his aggressive forward movement. He slowly maneuvered to within 10 feet of hostile soldiers who were firing automatic weapons from a trench and, in the face of vicious enemy fire, destroyed the position. Although he was by now the target of concentrated fire from hostile gunners intent upon halting his assault, L/Cpl Jimenez continued to press forward. As he moved to attack another enemy soldier, he was mortally wounded. L/Cpl Jimenez' indomitable courage, aggressive fighting spirit and unfaltering devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the U. S. Naval Service.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 27, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER

FROM

EDWARD V. HICKEY, JR. *E.V.H.*

SUBJECT

Posthumous Citizenship for Servicemen Killed  
in Vietnam

A bill has been unanimously passed by the House to grant US citizenship to a Marine killed in Vietnam who was a citizen of Scotland. It was introduced by the Massachusetts democratic delegation as his family resides there. The appeal for citizenship generated considerable media coverage as well as numerous letters to the President from individuals and organizations, including at least one labor union. Several of the news reports indicated that the subject of the bill was the only non-citizen Serviceman killed in Vietnam.

When the issue surfaced about a month ago, my staff had personal knowledge of other non-citizens who were killed in Vietnam. It led to a review of the records which surprisingly, reveals that about three hundred non-citizens were killed in action in Vietnam. A complete list by name and Service will be available on 1 October.

I recommend that at an appropriate time (perhaps at the bill signing) the President announce that he will introduce a bill to grant citizenship to all non-US citizens killed in action in Vietnam. In my view, it is one of those things we should do simply because it is the right thing to do.

You may be interested in the attached news clip, concerning the burial in 1967 of another Marine non-citizen killed in Vietnam. He was a squad leader in the then Captain Caulfield's company.

*9/29*  
*To E.V.H.*  
*I strongly concur*  
*in your recommendation. Pls.*  
*make sure NSC, OPD & Legis.*  
*affairs agree and move to*  
*implement. Thanks. JAB:III*

### Scottish Tradition

541967

Lindenhurst—As an epilogue to your recent story in Newsday (Sept. 21) on the death of the Marine sergeant from Scotland, Sgt. Alexander Chisholm, my wife (his sister) and I have just returned from Scotland after attending his burial. It was an experience I shall never forget. Coming from a relatively small town near Glasgow, he was known to most of the population, and on the day of his funeral, every store in the town closed for the afternoon. According to Scottish tradition, he was laid out in his

parents' home, and the pallbearers, eight Marine sergeants from the Polaris submarine base at Holy Loch, carried the casket from the house to the hearse, escorted the cortege to the cemetery through the streets lined three and four deep with people. At the cemetery, the Marines carried the casket to the grave, where Scottish tradition again took over. The lowering of the casket is performed by the family, and after the presentation of the flag to the mother, each of the menfolk of the family, myself included, were handed a cord attached to the handles of the casket, and the casket was lowered to its resting place.

The minister held a graveside service, and a Marine firing detail fired three volleys. A Royal Marine Commando bugler sounded taps at the conclusion of the ceremony. To the many people who sent cards and floral tributes to us and the parents in Scotland, my wife and I extend our heartfelt thanks.

—Alan L. Bower