

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Blackwell, Morton: Files
Folder Title: Veterans: Veterans Affairs –
General Correspondence
(3 of 4)
Box: 47

To see more digitized collections visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*K. J. E.
Veterans
Comm.*

July 17, 1981

Mr. Herman L. Neugass
4201 Cathedral Avenue, NW
Apartment 924 E
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Mr. Neugass:

Your letter to Jay Parker, in which you requested a letter from the President concerning Stamps for the Wounded, was forwarded to me.

I very much admire the good work you are doing, and am glad that I was able to be of assistance. Once again, allow me to express our gratitude for the wonderful contribution you have made to the lives of so many of our nation's veterans.

Sincerely,

Morton C. Blackwell

Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

cc: Jay Parker

July 14, 1981

Dear Mr. Neugass:

Your many years of dedicated service to the "Stamps for the Wounded" project is not only well known, but deeply appreciated by all who have benefited by it and enjoyed it to its fullest.

In providing an interest and an outlet for the many hospitalized veterans who have participated in this program, you have not only done a great service to your fellow man, but you have also shown, by your willingness to give so much of your time and energy, just how important you consider this project to be. Nancy and I want to congratulate you and your Nancy for your very caring spirit and we commend you for your special commitment in providing pleasure for those who have adopted this hobby, as a result of your efforts.

With our best wishes,

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Herman L. Neugass
National Chairman
Stamps for the Wounded
4201 Cathedral Avenue, N.W.
Apartment 924-E
Washington, D.C. 20016

BCC: Morton Blackwell

RR:JMH:AVH:bh



STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED
PHILATELY'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE COMMITTEE



5-12-81

Herman L. Neugass
Nat'l Chairman
4201 Cathedral Ave., N.W., Apt. ~~████~~ 924E
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Jay:

Many thanks in advance of
your help in seeing to it that
S.F.T.W. receive a letter from the present
President in the same vein as
the previous ones. Attached is some
documentation from V.A., etc.

It was certainly nice seeing
you last week, however brief.

Sincerely
Herman

P.S. - My current address and
my new apartment * is shown above.
I currently work closely with
Wallace Lynch (389-5389) at the
V.A. on this program.



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20420
September 27, 1973

IN REPLY 112G
REFER TO:

Mr. Herman L. Neugass
1001 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Neugass:

It is a rare occasion when I have an opportunity to express my very sincere gratitude to someone who has given so much time and effort in a project without that person demanding something material in return. This is, indeed, one of those occasions! I hope that you will receive this letter with my apologies for the extended delay on my part in recognizing your services.

I want to thank you and "Stamps for the Wounded," the organization with which you have been associated, for the many generous gifts of stamps and related materials you have sent to hospitalized veterans over the past many years. It is noted that more than a third of the Veterans Administration hospitals have been recipients of your efforts.

Philately is an interesting and mutually stimulating form of recreation, and even though I am not personally a collector, I can appreciate the involvement that is gained from participation in this activity. It was a surprise and delight to me to learn of the large number of our veterans who are taking advantage of the opportunity which you are offering them.

If this office can ever be of any service to you, either in this endeavor or other areas in which you may be involved, please do not hesitate to call upon us. I do hope that you can and will continue this truly appreciated philanthropy.

Sincerely,

J. C. FOLSOM, M.D.

Director

Rehabilitation Medicine Service

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 3, 1961

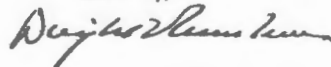
Dear Mr. Kehr:

With a long and personal interest in the welfare of our hospitalized veterans, I express my appreciation to all who assist in speeding their return to strength.

In this service, the members of Stamps for the Wounded have achieved a splendid record. In veterans' hospitals across the land, with generosity and imagination, they have helped to raise patient morale and to encourage a positive will to recover.

It is a pleasure to add my best wishes for the continuing success of your work.

Sincerely,



Mr. Ernest A. Kehr
National Chairman
Stamps for the Wounded
230 West 41st Street
New York 18, New York

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

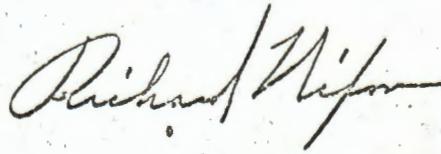
June 25, 1969

Dear Mr. Neugass:

I read recently of your participation in the "Stamps for the Wounded" project, and I just want to commend you for your interest in this effort to help our men recuperating in veterans' hospitals across the nation.

With my congratulations and best wishes to you and to all who offer this unique assistance to our men who have given so much to our nation,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard Nixon", written in a cursive style.

Mr. Herman Neugass
2801 New Mexico Avenue, NW.
Washington, D.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 3, 1972

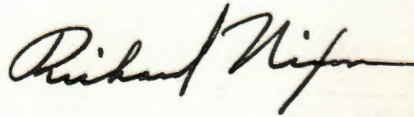
Dear Mr. Kehr:

As founder and National Chairman of "Stamps for the Wounded," you have given the nation three decades of valuable and inspiring service. The fact that this remarkable volunteer organization is marking such a significant anniversary is a tribute to you and the other philatelists who have given of their energy and talent for this worthy cause.

Your recognition of the therapeutic value of this fine hobby has eased the recovery period of thousands of hospitalized Veterans, and given them encouragement in their return to civilian life.

I wholeheartedly applaud you and hope that your worthwhile work may continue.

Sincerely,



Mr. Ernest A. Kehr
National Chairman
Stamps for the Wounded
221 West 41st Street
New York, New York 10036

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

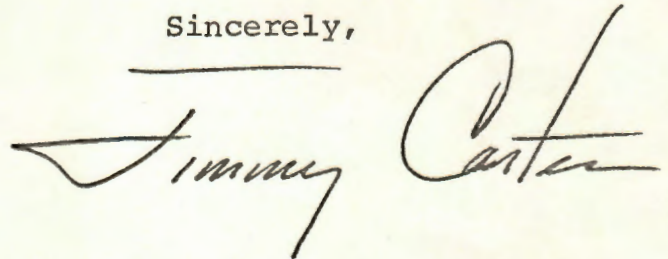
October 6, 1977

To Herman Neugass

Congratulations to you and the many volunteers who have made "Stamps for the Wounded" a successful project for the past 35 years.

You have my best wishes as you continue to lift the spirits of convalescing veterans in hospitals throughout the land.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first name.

Mr. Herman Neugass
National Chairman
Stamps for the Wounded
4201 Cathedral Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 14, 1975

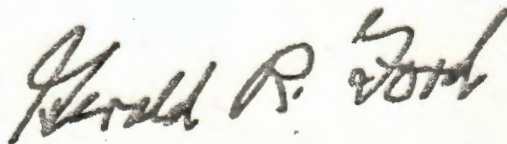
Dear Mr. Neugass:

As a person who shares your interest in stamp collecting, I am especially glad to have this opportunity to congratulate you on your efforts in support of the "Stamps for the Wounded" project.

My interest in this hobby began in 1922 when my aunt and uncle gave me a collection they had started in Argentina when they were stationed there with an American company in 1912. It has continued through the years and has become a project for all the family. Anyone with an appreciation for history, current events and world affairs will find this an intriguing and productive pastime. For some people stamps are simply the means by which we send the messages that affect our lives, but to collectors, stamps carry an important message of the growth and development of people and countries throughout the world.

Congratulations on your fine work -- it is an inspiration to all of us, and especially to those of us who can appreciate the fulfillment and happiness that comes from this great hobby.

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mr. Herman L. Neugass
Apartment 815W
4201 Cathedral Avenue, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20016



APRIL 2 - 1981



Mr. Herman Neugass
Stamps for the Wounded
4201 Cathedral Avenue, N.W., #815-W
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Mr. Neugass:

The philately program, Stamps for the Wounded, has been in operation and under the guidance of your organization for over 35 years. We gratefully acknowledge the tremendous amount of personal time you and your lovely wife have contributed to this project. Furthermore, we recognize the visibility given this program by every President of the United States since 1944.

Philately is an interesting and stimulating form of recreation, and I can appreciate the personal satisfaction one gets from the collecting and studying of postage and imprinted stamps.

Again, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the contribution you are making in the care of our hospitalized veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rufus H. Wilson'.

RUFUS H. WILSON
Acting Administrator

Xerox of
plaque presented
on May 10th, 1978
on behalf of
"Stamps for the
Wounded"



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
COMMENDATION

AWARDED TO

STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED

TO SAY THANKS ON BEHALF OF THOSE AND
HOSPITALIZED VETERANS FOR INTRODUCING THEM
TO THE ART OF ENDOLETTY AND PROVIDING STAMPS
AND SUPPLIES FOR OVER 30 YEARS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 10, 1978

MAX TILAND

ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20420

May 18, 1978

Dear Mr. Neugass:

We appreciate your support of the philately program in our Veterans Administration hospitals. The tremendous amount of personal time you and your lovely wife, Nancy, have contributed to "Stamps for the Wounded" is gratefully acknowledged.

Philately is an interesting and stimulating form of recreation, and I can appreciate the personal satisfaction one gets from the collecting and studying of postage and imprinted stamps.

Again, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the contribution you are making in the care of our hospitalized veterans.

Sincerely,

MAX CLELAND
Administrator

Mr. Herman L. Neugass
4201 Cathedral Avenue, N. W.
Apartment 815-W
Washington, D. C. 20016



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20420



January 16, 1976

IN REPLY 117
REFER TO:

"Stamps For The Wounded"
c/o Mr. Herman L. Neugass
4201 Cathedral Ave., N.W.
Apt. 815 W
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Mr. Neugass:

The continued efforts which you have made to improve and expand the stamp-collecting interests and capabilities of thousands of hospitalized veterans are deeply appreciated. With over 65 Veterans Administration Health Care Facilities participating in this program, it is apparent that this hobby appeals to a wide variety of personalities. Fortunately, stamp-collecting can be enjoyed by the more severely disabled as well as the individual with relatively minor health problems.

VA Central Office program officials have enjoyed the opportunity of working directly with your office, and utilizing the expert counsel and assistance which you so readily provide. We sincerely hope this liaison can continue and grow in the years to come.

Thank you very much for the contributions you have made to provide this worth-while activity to the hospitalized veteran.

Sincerely yours,

J. C. FOLSOM, M.D.
Director
Rehabilitation Medicine Service



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

HOSPITAL

TUCSON, ARIZONA 85723

May 10, 1978

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Neugass
4201 Cathedral Ave NW
Apt. ~~924~~ 924E
Washington, DC 20016

note
This is a typical
letter of acknowledgement from
one of the hospital's served.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Neugass:

The large parcel arrived two days ago, and the guys have jumped right in and started separating all the materials. The most popular items were the souvenir sheets which only you send, the large colorful recent pictorials off of mail clippings, the older stamps from previous stamp collectors and the mint sets. Although I do not know a great deal about stamp collecting myself, I can tell by the enthusiasm that your sendings are most rewarding. This makes my job a great deal easier as my responsibility is to develop viable socialization and recreational opportunities for the veterans. The growth in interest and participation amazes me in the hobby of stamp collecting.

The group asked me if there is any way we can recognize you both beyond the certificates we have sent previously. I told them I didn't know how to go about this, but I imagine that there is a publication you are attached to that would be an appropriate place to put in a plug for your program. If you can forward me the title and address of any relevant publication, I would like to have the guys write a letter to the editor supporting your efforts and the (Stamps for the Wounded). Thank you so much for your concern for the disabled veteran.

Yours truly,

Andrew F. Mosko

Andrew F. Mosko, PhD
Staff Psychologist

P.S. Would you mind if I helped you with the postage costs. I have some United States Commemorative stamps that would look nice on parcels. Let me know on this.

July 9, 1981

Dear Mr. Minter:

Thank you for your letter of June 23.

Mr. Baker appreciates your advising him of your continued interest in promoting the "Veterans Golf Tournaments." He has asked me to forward your letter to Elizabeth Dole, Assistant to the President for Public Liaison. Her office has been working closely with a number of Veterans Groups and might be able to give you some further guidance regarding your proposal.

Mr. Baker thanks you once again for your interest in bringing your continued efforts to his attention.

Sincerely,

Katherine Camalier
Staff Assistant to
James A. Baker, III

Mr. Ray E. Minter
Post Office Box 886
Sunset Beach, California 90742

✓ cc: Elizabeth Dole--please route

Morton

P.O.Box 886
Sunset Beach,
CA 90742

June 23, 1981

Mr. James A Baker III
Chief of Staff
The White House

Mr. Ray E. Minter
Chief of Staff
CREATIVE SPORT PROGRAMS
FOR VETERANS RECOGNITION
P.O.Box 866
Sunset Beach, CA 90742

Dear Mr. Baker:

Back in November 1980, I proposed an effective way to reach " all " Veterans of our Country, not the " fasting nuts " after all, we've had some great wars besides Vietnam.

There are alot of Veterans, both men and women, who would appreciate a golf tournament among the services, a chance to compete and share recognition, in good taste. So, after too many letters, my " Veterans Golf Tournaments " has been sent to the White House Military Office by Mr. Michael Deaver in March 11, 1981. A couple of weeks later, a Mr. Edward Hickey, Jr., requested the original proposal I had sent Mr. Ronald Reagan, this was March 30th 1981. A month later, Hickey advised me he had sent it on to the VA.

On May 18, 1981, you recommended I contact Mr. Robert P. Nimmo, the newly appointed head of the VA. To date, I have no reply from him. But a real " choice " letter was sent by a Rufus Wilson at VA. A precious reply if you ever read one. (attached to this communique) Can you imagine a guy putting in print " my program doesn't provide a direct benefit to the healing process of the Veteran "...My program is good, but not that good!

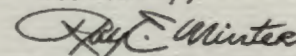
While my program offers visibility and would offer recognition it " does not provide direct patient care ".

Have you ever been totally disgusted? I mean " totally ". Be so, share with me.

Back in 1967 I produced some three dimensional engravings, selecting and backing Mr. Reagan in his early attempt to run for President. I thought that was a nice idea then, now 14 years later, I put together a real program that not only promotes the Republican Party but the new adminstration and makes money. There is a real need for Mr. Reagan to increase his popularity among all Veterans.

You and your people try to get your programs approved any way you can and many are unproved, how about trying to get my program approved?

Cordially,



Ray E. Minter



**Veterans
Administration**

MAY 20 1981



Mr. Ray Minter
Creative Sport Programs
for Veteran Recognition
P.O. Box 886
Sunset Beach, CA 90742

Dear Mr. Minter:

Your letter to the President has been referred to the Veterans Administration for reply. We read your proposal with interest and realize the visibility it would afford veterans.

The Veterans Administration has always viewed recreational programming as a rehabilitation process for the recovering veteran. We have many programs designed to provide a direct benefit to the healing process which is paramount to each individual need. While the Veterans Golf Tournament would give recognition to veterans, it does not fall into a category of providing direct patient care to our veterans.

The interest you have shown in our country's veterans is genuinely appreciated. Thank you for caring.

Sincerely,

RUFUS H. WILSON
Acting Administrator



State of California

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO 95814

RONALD REAGAN
GOVERNOR

March 16, 1967

Mr. Ray Winter
Creative Sport Programs
Box 26
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Dear Mr. Winter:

Just a line to thank you for the dimensional engravings. I appreciate the time and trouble you have spent on this project.

Again, thank you for thinking to send them to me.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN
Governor

P.S. We are unable to make proper use of these, but suggest you contact the State Republican Central Committee in San Francisco for their possible use.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 15, 1981

*File
Veterans*

TO: MORTON BLACKWELL

FROM: **FRANK A. URSOMARSO**
Director of Communications

☒ Information

☐ Action



John A. Micklos

925 S. OLDHAM STREET

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21224

633-7669

PERSONAL
PLEASE FORWARD TO:

NOTARY PUBLIC

COMMISSIONER
WAR MEMORIAL
CITY OF BALTIMORE

July 14, 1981

Mr. Frank A. Ursomarso
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Sir,

I received today in the mail "PRESIDENT REAGAN'S BIPARTISAN PLANS FOR TAX RESTRAINT." This is the third piece of mail I have received from the WHITE HOUSE since the President took office. I am honored and very proud. As you know my commission deals with veterans in the state and as a writer I have written several article all very pro on the President. Please inform him that in the next election If I have anything to do with it the Great State of Maryland will be with the President. I am pleased and very happy with what the President has done and is doing please relay this to him. Also I am and will through various veterans organizations support him, in the future. Please inform him that if it was ever possible it would be great honor and it would indeed make me very proud to have the opportunity to meet him at the White House even for a minute . I also realize that he is busy--but you can not blame me for asking. It would make the citizens of Baltimore and many veterans throughout the state proud to have one of there own visit the President. I am always happy to receive mail from the President. Naturally, the best piece of mail would be an invitation from President Reagan to visit him.

John A. Micklos
BEST ALWAYS TO THE PRESIDENT

Challenged to Work for Better Schools

Editor: Educators and parents are now aware that problems not only exist in our public schools but many problems have been identified in a realistic fashion and many educators are trying to effect reforms. Moreover, the public should be aware that the loose and easy atmosphere that prevailed in the 1960's and the "anything goes" atmosphere of part of the 1970's is now gone.

Public schools are now demanding and in many cases have already instituted a return to the basics, along with a long range goal of pride and excellence in the schools. We are demanding, and the results are beginning or will begin to show, that students graduating from high school can count in a competent manner, are able to write correct sentences, and are able to read and express themselves fluently.

I hear and read that many citizens are under the impression that many schools are nothing but baby-sitting stations and that in some schools pot and alcohol are used with no one complaining. As one who is not only a teacher but has also visited many schools throughout the state, I can state that no school that I have visited tolerates the use of alcohol and drugs or allows students to go undisciplined.

As for any administrators who might still acquiesce to the students, their days are limited. We are demanding excellence in our schools, and in the future, with capable men and women in key positions, I feel that further progress will be made in our public schools.

I also see a day that the public school will be second to none. Yes, progress has been made in our schools this year, and more progress toward excellence will be made in the future. I feel that all of us

should be proud of the job the majority of our teachers are doing in teaching our young people.

John A. Micklos.

Baltimore.

Editor: In 1975, during a most turbulent and trying time for the educational system of Baltimore, the mayor appointed Mark Joseph president of the Board of School Commissioners. At the same time, the board appointed John Crew superintendent of public instruction.

The challenges which faced Mr. Joseph and Dr. Crew were enormous — the aftermath of desegregation, a teachers' strike, declining achievement levels on standardized test scores, and the unsettling after-effects associated with the dismissal of a superintendent. To pick up the pieces and turn the tide required enormous energy, dedication and commitment.

Today, five years later, Mr. Joseph is stepping aside. What he and the board, working with Dr. Crew and his staff, have accomplished in these past five years is nothing short of incredible.

In a working partnership they have proved that progress is attainable in a large urban system despite budgetary constraints and socio-economic factors.

The School for the Arts, the program for gifted and talented, the academic junior high, a new City College, and a proficiency testing program to measure student achievement and gauge the effectiveness of our teaching staff and schools are all part of the total effort to upgrade and improve our system which Mr. Joseph championed.

But, in the words of Mr. Joseph, "the single most important measure of accomplishment is the results of the city school children on the standardized tests." It is in this area where dramatic gains have been realized in the last three years.

Mr. Joseph can be justifiably proud of this, as the board and superintendent continue to move toward their goal—"that the average child in the city schools read and compute as well as the average child anywhere in America."

Although I measure my association with the board in only weeks, I came to appreciate and respect the high degree of professionalism and dedication that Mr. Joseph exhibited as president of the board.

His perspicuous synthesis of the sometimes differing views of board members into a common framework for making decisions and solving problems, coupled with a wisdom and guidance tempered by his legal training, has enabled the board and superintendent to bring the educational system up to a level of achievement of which all Baltimoreans can be proud.

In his leaving, he has set the course for even greater strides in upgrading and improving the system, in making it one of the best in the nation. This is the legacy and challenge he leaves the current and future boards.

Mr. Joseph's exemplary service to the people of Baltimore, especially to the students of our school system, deserves our utmost gratitude and thanks.

Robert L. Walker.

Baltimore.

The writer is a member of the Board of School Commissioners.

The 46th

John Micklos should be named
to fill its vacant House seat

Harry Hughes, it seems to us, has a splendid opportunity to enhance the quality of the House of Delegates. There is a vacancy in the House from east East Baltimore's 46th legislative district, caused by a complex chain of events that started when Charles J. Krysiak sought and won re-election when he really didn't want the job. He wanted a judgeship. (Which he didn't get anyway; in one of Blair Lee's final acts, an act that adds no luster to the Lee image, Mr. Krysiak was named chairman of the state's Workmen's Compensation Commission.)

Because of political machinations, the number of Democratic State Central Committee members from the 46th has lately been two instead of three, and they haven't been able to agree on anyone to replace Krysiak in the House. Thus it's up to the Governor. The pressure is on him to name Louis V. Cavallaro who, like Mr. Krysiak, is beholden to the Staszak-DiPietro-Hofferbert political organization, and who, thanks to its support, was able to place fourth in the September primary.

Gov. Hughes, in our opinion, should instead name John A. Micklos, who trailed Mr. Cavallaro by 208 votes in September. Unlike Mr. Cavallaro, Mr. Micklos has the support of the same citizens who, fed up with machine politics in the district, worked hard and successfully to unseat two Staszak people and replace them with two fresh and independent faces — Anthony M. DiPietro Jr. and Patrick L. McDonough — in Annapolis this session.

Mr. Micklos, a lifelong resident of the 46th, is of the same stripe. He is independent of any political organization. He has, as have so many other activist Baltimoreans, cut his teeth in civic association work, and understands the need for communication, constant give-and-take communication, between elected officials and community groups. A Hopkins graduate with a master's degree, he has been a teacher of English and history at Kenwood High for 17 years and, in 1977, was voted one of Baltimore County's outstanding teachers; thus his experience should add stature to the General Assembly in matters of education and juvenile problems, problems which are of especial concern to him.

As we at *The News American* long have known through his letters and his occasional essays, Mr. Micklos is a thoughtful and persuasive writer on the subjects of government and citizen responsibility to the democratic process. This, heaven knows, does not of itself qualify a citizen for public office. But it does indicate an articulate concern, and that, plus his record of community involvement and the approbation of so many of his similarly concerned neighbors, leads us to believe that he is indeed the kind of citizen which modern government needs. Harry Hughes often has said that he wants good people serving Maryland, and here is his chance to get another one.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

JUN 1 8 1967

Dear Mr. Adam:

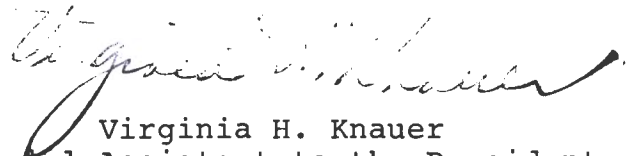
Thank you for your letter of May 21 expressing your concern with the treatment of veterans.

As one of my responsibilities is the issue of health care, I read with particular interest your account of the problems that some veterans are encountering in obtaining medical assistance at hospitals. Veterans, as well as all consumers, are entitled to adequate health facilities and services.

Legislation has been introduced in Congress which hopefully will address some of the problems facing veterans as expressed in your correspondence. I have taken the liberty of sharing your letter with Morton Blackwell, here in the Office of Public Liaison, who is more familiar with the details of veterans issues.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write and share your concerns with me.

Sincerely,



Virginia H. Knauer
Special Assistant to the President

Mr. Henry A. Adam
510 South 8th Street, #234
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

May 21, 1981
Minneapolis, Minn.

Virginia H. Knauer
Special Assistant to The President
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Ms. Knauer;

In connection with your new assignment of Caring for the Aged and infirm, I should like to call to your attention the sad state of affairs which I find at the Veterans Administration.

I have today spent almost the whole day at the Ft. Snelling Veterans Hospital, just to obtain a chest x-ray which I could not get at the Hennepin County Chest Clinic because they were too busy running tests on a group of children, and they recommended that I go to the VA Hospital.

I can best describe it as "Story Book Land in Rivalry with the best that Walt Disney can produce".

To begin with, there is a line at the admissions desk about twenty or thirty deep. Once you get past the admissions desk you wait while the hospital employees read your record, if there is one on file. Then they call your name and send you to another place to wait while the next employee reads your file. I saw these nurses come out with file folders at least an inch thick, and everywhere I see employees reading case records, like a visitor to a local library who is reading the latest Mickey Spillane thriller.

Over the years, since world war two I have seen various Veterans hospitals and the process of getting thru there to get medical treatment or to process a claim is the most lengthy and painful process that has yet been invented.

Veterans Hospitals were first designed to serve the Veterans who were injured in World War I and the Spanish American War, and they were few in number, in comparison with the thirty million men who have served during and since World War Two. The claims and treatment process as it is today does more to reduce a man to a vegetable than it does to treat a minor ailment or process a simple claim.

Sadly, War Veterans have learned to accept what they cannot change.

I have seen, in every state in the Union where I have lived, that ex-convicts who spent years in prison for crimes they have been convicted of, come out of prison and are treated as heroes, catered to in every way by rich and poor alike, and are even given highly paid jobs in the movie industry, and are emulated, copied and imitated and are highly respected. But a War Veteran who came back from the Beaches of Iwo Jima scarred and broken is stashed away in some musty ward in a VA Hospital to be pitied and wheeled around on a wheel chair by a volunteer worker.

A Veteran who comes out of the Service wants to get back his private life, but the public won't let him. They say "Go to the Veterans Administration, they will help you". The veteran is not only

26 MAY 1981

told to seek aid from the VA, he is literally chased by family and friends. So, yes, he goes to the Veterans Administration, and they ask him why are you here / what can we do for you ? He does not know what he is there for, because he himself had other intentions. It was his family's idea that he go there. So now he is admitted as a patient, and classified as "mentally disturbed". He is put in a ward and is studied for six months. But by that time he has already begun to be converted to a vegetable. Pretty soon the Veterans Hospital becomes his "home" and waiting in line to file a claim has become a way of life. But now you go back and ask his relatives about him and they will say " why, he is a worthless bum". And soon he becomes one.

Hence, we go now to a Veterans Hospital and find the employees lugging file folders an inch thick, containing the Veteran's life story, plus a lot of false statements made about him by his family.

Right here in Minneapolis I see a man every day who dresses in fancy suits, and wears a Van Dyke beard, and even a fur piece (which usually only women wear). He never works. I asked him one day " what do you do for a living ?". He said " when I got out of Service I had a nervous condition and could not hold my hands still (and he skook his hands at his sides to demonstrate), and he said " I get a Veteran's pension". Yet alongside of me there is another Veteran working as a dishwasher, his legs are in very bad condition and he can hardly walk up or downstairs, but he gets only eighty eight dollars a month in disability pay.

It is as the old saying goes " you gotta know the right people". If you know the right people they can open doors for you, but if you are a Veteran of Star Wars and your Rocket ship was blown up on the moon and you were carried in on a stretcher they will only look at you sideways and ask each other " just where did this monkey come from Why ? Because you do not know somebody on the inside who can push the right buttons and open the right doors.

Personally I am ever so glad that I have no disability, and that I get no Veterans Benefits or Social Security or relief or food stamps, and that I need not do business with the Veterans Administration more than once in ten years or so, because a more traumatic experience is hard to find.

Veterans do not want to be treated as vegetables, just because their Military careers are over. They want to be treated as men. As individuals who are just as eager to find their own way in society as even you are. They want new incentives to demonstrate their real skills, ability, and intelligence, just as anyone else who never saw military service. They do not want to be hangers on, who spend their lives in a Veterans Administration claims office, while the employees stand there reading the service man's record like a Mickey Spillane novel.

Every city and county has a welfare office, and a hospital for the poor, who never had jobs, or saw military service or defended this nation with their lives. They can get medical care within five or ten minutes from home, for free. They can get relief checks, and food stamps at the county welfare office down the street.

Where does a Veteran go when he needs help ? To some far off

place that they call The Veterans Hospital. (one or two in each state). He goes there to get probed and prodded and studied and investigated and scrutinized, to make sure he is not filing a false claim, or getting something for nothing, and if he does win a claim it is usually a small fraction of what a welfare applicant is given without any questions asked.

The severely injured, the paraplegics, and those in need of constant care would fare far better if the bulk of the small Veterans claims and medical needs could be handled in their own local communities but again, the Veterans Administration was established many years ago. It is set in it's ways, and there is "entrenchment" there as well as there is in any Government agency, and we do not expect it soon to change.

Yours truly,

Henry A. Adam
Henry A. Adam
510 So. 8th St. # 234
Minneapolis, Mn. 55404

June 23, 1981

*file
Correspondence
Veterans*

Dear Mr. Bennett:

On behalf of the President, I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your mailgram of June 2 asking to talk with him or his designated representative concerning the providing of food for Vietnamese children.

I am very sorry I must advise you that the President will be unable to meet with you and the others specified by you in your ailgram in view of his heavy schedule demands. However, your mailgram is being brought to the attention of the Acting Director of the Bureau of Refugee Programs at the Department of State, who is Mr. W. R. Smyser.

With our best wishes,

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Newell
Special Assistant
to the President

Mr. Asia A. Bennett
Executive Secretary
American Friends Service Committee
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

cc: Mr. W. R. Smyser

✓ Inf cc: Morton Blackwell
GJN:mhr:emb-21a

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

(file)
Correspondence
Vets

June 25, 1981

TO: ADMIRAL GARRICK
FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL
RE: Extending active status of a Navy officer

A strong Reagan supporter from New Jersey has asked for our help. His name is Bruce Oliver and he is a Lt. in the US Navy Reserve. He is part of a staff unit that supports Commander Maritime Surveillance and Reconnaissance forces, 6th fleet; his unit recently traveled to Italy and received extensive training.

He has been passed over twice for promotion to Lt. Commander and the Navy has said that he will be removed from active status on June 30. He wishes to remain on active status and is requesting that his active status be extended until the convening of the next review board.

He cites Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 6389 which states that the discretion of continuing his active status is left to the Secretary of the Navy; he has written a letter to Secretary of the Navy John Lehman asking him to intervene.

Also, Congressman Christopher Smith (R - NJ) has asked the Navy to extend Mr. Oliver's active status.

We are enclosing the correspondence on this matter.

I am asking for your advice on this matter.
I would be pleased to talk to Secretary Lehman directly - shall I do this or do you have any suggestions?

Thank you.

E. C. Grayson
↓

Signed letter

Dep. Asst. + Sec'y Navy
Manpower -

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*File
Vet Cases*

June 1, 1981

Mr. Denis Bainum, President
Veterans Production Company
2930 Riverside Drive
Burbank, California 91505

Dear Mr. Bainum:

Thank you for the mailgram you sent to President Reagan regarding your company. Due to heavy scheduling, it just is not possible for the President to reply to all Presidential requests.

With respect to the Vietnam Veteran Outreach Centers, I am pleased to report to you that sufficient funding for these centers was restored in the Reagan Bipartisan Budget which recently passed the Congress. When the Congress passes the required legislation, and it surely will, the life of these Outreach Centers will be extended.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Morton C. Blackwell

Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

Maiselle:

Regarding "opening doors in Hollywood"
just answer something to the effect that
~~the President cannot~~ it isn't
possible for the President to reply to
all Presidential requests...

Then you can answer this as you wish --
turndown for a meeting, etc.

Leslie

18
DENIS BAINUM PRESIDENT<VETERANS
2930 RIVERSIDE DR
BURBANK CA 91505

 Mailgram®
western union



4-0444486061 03/02/81 ICS IMPRNCZ CSP WSHB
2138415854 MGM TDRN BURBANK CA 132 03-02 0403P EST

smk
PRESIDENT REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

*Morton Blackwell
To Correspondence*

MR PRESIDENT
THE VETERANS PRODUCTIONS COMPANY, COMPOSED OF VIETNAM ERA VETERANS
HAS ESTABLISHED AS ITS PRIMARY GOAL THE UTILIZATION OF VETERANS IN
THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY, BOTH IN FRONT OF AND BEHIND THE CAMERA.
WE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD ASSIST US IN OPENING SOME OF
THE IMPORTANT DOORS IN HOLLYWOOD, THROUGH YOUR SHOW BUSINESS
CONTACTS. ADDITIONALLY, WE FEEL THAT VETERANS GROUPS ESPECIALLY THOSE
CONCERNED WITH THE PLIGHT OF THE VIETNAM VETERAN SUCH AS OPERATION
OUTREACH AND THE VETERANS CENTERS SHOULD NOT HAVE THEIR FUNDS CUT NOW
OR IN THE FUTURE. WE WILL BE WILLING TO SIT DOWN AT ANY TIME IN THE
FUTURE AND TALK WITH ONE OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT OUR FUTURE
PLANS.

GOD BLESS YOU

DENIS BAINUM PRESIDENT
VETERANS PRODUCTION CO

16103 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM, PHONE WESTERN UNION ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT:

FOR YOUR LOCAL NUMBER, SEE THE WHITE PAGES

OF YOUR TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

OR

DIAL (TOLL FREE) 800-257-2241

(EXCEPT IN NEW JERSEY 800-632-2271)

OR DIAL WESTERN UNION'S INFOMASTER SYSTEM DIRECTLY:

FROM TELEX 6161

FROM TWX 910 420 1212

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*File/
Veterans
Comes.*

June 1, 1981

Colonel Leonard Rosenthal
P.O. Box 611301
Miami, Florida 33161

Dear Colonel Rosenthal:

Mr. Meese asked me to reply to your recent letters.

Our records show that you were sent a picture autographed by the President and Mrs. Reagan. I hope the photograph arrived promptly.

For the autographs you requested of President Nixon and President Ford, I suggest that you write to each of them directly.

Thank you for your continuing support of the President.

Sincerely,

Morton C. Blackwell

Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

*Copies of Pres. Nixon's resignation & Pres. Ford's
pardon were returned to Col Rosenthal*

March 24, 1981

*file
Veterans
groups*

Dear Mr. Collatos:

Rich Ahearn has passed me your letter indicating an interest in Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Morton Blackwell, of our office, handles such matters and I have asked him to note your interest as he moves forward.

Thank you for your expression in this regard.

Sincerely,

Red Cavaney
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Mr. Charles N. Collatos
Commissioner
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Commissioner of
Veterans' Services
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02202

cc: Morton Blackwell with copy of incoming

RC:c - 4

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 10, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: RED CAVANEY
FROM: FREDERICK L. AHEARN
SUBJECT: ATTACHED LETTER FROM COMMISSIONER CHARLES
N. COLLATOS

If you could drop this fellow a note, it would be most appreciated.

He is interested in Veterans' Affairs. Even if you never have occasion to invite him, I would be grateful if you would acknowledge his letter.

Many thanks.

3/12



CHARLES N. COLLATOS
COMMISSIONER

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Commissioner of Veterans' Services
Leverett Saltonstall Building, Government Center
100 Cambridge Street, Boston 02202

February 24, 1981

Rick
Mr. ~~Frank~~ Ahearn
Staff Assistant To The President
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Rick:

I am aware that Elizabeth Dole is preparing meetings to be attended by the President and interested citizens and Government Officials who are concerned with the Budget.

As one of those fitting into that category and also having a genuine desire to be of assistance to the President whenever I can, I want to offer you my name and my availability to attend such a meeting.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles".

Charles N. Collatos
Commissioner

CNC:GTQ

December 9, 1981

Dear Mr. Anderson:

President Reagan has asked me to thank you for the very thoughtful suggestion you sent to him for a special Christmas message this year. A message has been signed and will be sent out on request and also released to the news media by our Press Office.

He has asked me to send you a copy along with a photograph which he signed for you. You have his deep appreciation and warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and happiness in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Dodie Livingston
Director
Office of Special
Presidential Messages

Mr. Elmer D. Anderson
945 North Oracle Road 19
Tucson, AZ 85704

Enclosure: (8X10 glossy photo inscribed
"To Elmer Anderson--With Best
Wishes" /s/ Ronald Reagan)

WHcc: The Honorable Jesse Helms
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

DL:--
cc: M. Blackwell/D. Livingston/CF

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 29, 1981

TO: Dodie Livingston

FROM: Morton Blackwell

We have checked with Tom Jones and were informed that the President does not normally issue these type of Proclamations.

Thus, would it be possible to please send a Presidential message to this group.

Thank you.

October 19, 1981

We have just received a copy of the following letter that Senator Jesse Helms sent to the President regarding this matter.

If you feel it now warrants more than a Presidential message, please refer it to the correct place or let us know if we should proceed?

Thank you.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 15, 1981

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ron:

Captain Elmer D. Anderson, U.S. Navy Retired, of Valparaiso, Indiana, recently sent me the enclosed draft of a Christmas message that he would like to see you deliver. I promised him that I would send it to you and ask you to think about delivering a Christmas message along the lines of what he has suggested.

I hope you will give Captain Anderson's suggestion serious consideration. I believe a message such as the one he has drafted would promote national unity, and bring us all together during the holiday season.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can lend a hand.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jesse", with a stylized flourish at the end.

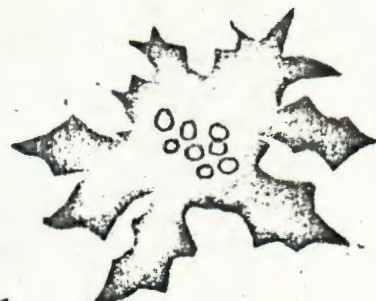
JESSE HELMS:smb

Enclosure

cc: Captain Elmer D. Anderson, U.S. Navy Retired

ROUGH DRAFT
WITHOUT ILLUSTRATIONS
AND PARAGRAPHING

THE UNITED AMERICA



PRESIDENTIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

WHEREAS, THE YEAR OF THE LORD 1981 MARKS THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTH YEAR OF THIS GREAT REPUBLIC; and

WHEREAS, SANTA CLAUSE IS "AUTHORIZED" TO USE THE AIRSPACE OF THE USA AS WELL AS ALL OUR TERRITORIES ON CHRISTMAS EVE - JUST AS HE IS EQUALLY WELCOMED IN INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS AROUND THE WORLD; and

WHEREAS, SANTA'S PERSONAL VIGOR, TOGETHER WITH THE STAMINA OF OF HIS TRUSTY REINDEER ARE TRULY REMARKABLE, AND HIS SAFTEY RECORD IS UNBLEMISHED; and

WHEREAS, THE GOOD LORD CAN ALWAYS BE RELIED ON TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFTEY OF ALL AIRWAYS FOR SANTA, HIS REINDEER AND SLEIGH;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD W. REAGAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, HAPPILY JOINS ALL GRANDPARENTS AND PARENTS, AND HERewith ESTABLISHES THE JOYOUS MONTH OF DECEMBER AS

CHILDREN'S MONTH

I, FURTHERMORE, SET ASIDE THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER FOR THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, IN COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION, TO RESOLVE ANY AIR-SAFTEY MATTERS THAT MIGHT ENDANGER THE SAFTEY OF SANTA CLAUSE AND HIS TRUSTY REINDEER, WHILE THEY ARE MAKING THEIR APPOINTED ROUNDS ON CHRISTMAS EVE, TO CHILDREN'S HOMES.

I ISSUE THIS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR THE JOY AND HAPPINESS OF ALL CHILDREN, FOR GOOD WILL TOWARD MANKIND, AND IN HONOR OF SANTA CLAUSE: THAT AMBASSADOR OF LOVE, WORLD UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE!

557 Northview Drive
Valparaiso, IN 46383
Tel: 219-462-7044
September 11, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Old Executive Office Building (Rm-191)
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

This letter and enclosures confirm my telephone conversation with Kathy Christiansen of September 10, 1981.

The Christmas Proclamation (enclosure (1)) is in behalf of children world-wide. Its thrust is good will toward man: in the interest of world peace.

My motive is to enlist the cooperation of the White House, as a courtesy to President Reagan. His personal involvement is also sought in furtherance of domestic and international understanding. Furthermore, the desire is maximum impact for the President, concomitant with advancement of Rotary International's goals.

Consequently, if the idea has merit, it is respectfully requested President Reagan personally make the official media release just before December 1, 1981.

Our club's public relations committee takes pride in this initiative and wishes to be kept informed.

If the proclamation proves acceptable, I shall personally deliver the framed and matted original with the understanding that no publicity shall attend or later ensue. This is necessary to avoid premature leaks working to the disadvantage of the President, as well as harmful impact on the proclamation's effectiveness.

The Official Proclamation will be printed on quality gold-leaf paper incorporating a non-sectarian, colored Christmas motif.

Finally, time is essence! The final layout and printing must be accomplished by November 1st. Accordingly, it will be advantageous for all concerned if official telephonic response can be made at the earliest practicable date, followed by written confirmation - to maximize our leadtime.

Very respectfully yours,



Elmer Dee Anderson
Captain, U.S. Navy Retired

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VALPARAISO ROTARY CLUB

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Old English Script

WHEREAS, the Year of our Lord 1981 marks the sixty-seventh year of Rotary International and the sixtieth year of the Valparaiso Indiana Rotary Club, USA; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clause is authorized to use the airspace of the Great State of Indiana on Christmas Eve - just as he is also authorized to do so over our other contiguous States and U. S. Territories, as well as all other international airspace; and

WHEREAS, his unparalleled safety record; his unequalled instrument proficiency; the obvious airworthiness of his equipment, and his remarkable vigor, notwithstanding, Santa is in fact growing older, along with his trusty reindeer and sleigh; and

WHEREAS, the Good Lord has always heretofore been relied on to extend periodically the operational life of Santa's sleigh and reindeer; yet

WHEREAS, it is the honor-bound duty of the FAA to do so, pursuant to certification of Santa, his "airframe" and "power plants" (after installation of anti-collision lights (Rudolph's glowing red nose, notwithstanding), anti-icing systems, collision-avoidance gear and modern navigation equipment); and

WHEREAS, nothing herein is, in anyway, to be interpreted as a reflection against our Good Lord; the proficiency and proven airmanship of Santa Clause; the excellent record of the Secretary of Transportation, or the worthy history of the Federal Aviation Administration:

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE BOARD MEMBERS OF VALPARAISO ROTARY CLUB, do hereby proclaim the month of December, 1981, as

CHILDREN'S MONTH

← Old English Script

We proclaim, furthermore, the week of December 1, 1981, as the appropriate time for President Ronald W. Reagan, USA, to issue an "Executive Memoranda" directing the Honorable Drew Lewis, Secretary of Transportation, to influence Mr. J. Lynn Helms of the Federal Aviation Administration to resolve expeditiously all air safety matters set forth, herein, above, in cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization.

We make this proclamation in the furtherence of Good Will Toward All Men and World Peace, concomitantly with Our Prayers for the Joy and Welfare of All Children, by ensuring the Continued Safety of Santa Clause and His Reindeer.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have set our hands and caused to be affixed the Seal of our Rotary Club, in the Great City of Valparaiso, Indiana,



• Viewpoints

Thursday, Sept. 3, 1981

Page 4

Rotarians briefed on worldwide activities

Rotary district governor Gene Wilczynski of Merrillville recently addressed Valparaiso Rotarians, bringing them up to date on the 900,000-member organization with 19,100 clubs in 156 countries — "the most forward-looking, non-political international organization at work in the world today."

He identified Rotary Foundation's Academic (foreign) Study Scholarships, its group study exchanges, special education grants and youth summer exchange programs as the organization's foremost vehicles designed to meet Rotary's common ideal for enhancement of international good will and understanding.

These unique ambassadorial youth exchanges, unlike political ambassadorships, are not only at work 24 hours a day, he said, "but more importantly, the sun never sets on these unique initiatives in search of world peace."

Wilczynski said Rotary's Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) program compliments the thrust of Rotary Foundation by adding a sec-

ond dimension. 3-H consolidates and focuses other human and financial resources to bring these essential assets to bear upon serious human problems in less-developed countries.

As an example, he pointed to the organization's polio-immunization drive to eradicate this disease in the Philippines, a program to be extended next to Africa.

The speaker alluded to Rotary's Committee for World Understanding and Peace, which will concentrate on bridging areas of international misunderstandings.

A high-level committee of international leaders will take an in-depth look at each international program to better coordinate still further opportunities for world service.

Wilczynski reminded Rotarians not to lose sight of the need for concurrent community-action activities. He said Rotary's objectives can be realized only through funding by maximizing the number of local members enrolled as Paul Harris Fellows.

E.D. ANDERSON

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 18, 1983

Mr. Bernard Schonfeld
1141 Holly Avenue
Imperial Beach, CA 92032

Dear Mr. Schonfeld,

Thank you for your letter concerning eligibility for the law course at Western Sierra School of Law. Unfortunately, this is not the correct office to contact in this situation. Our office serves as a liaison between the President and veteran's organizations, rather than individual veterans.

However, we have forwarded your letter to the new Administrator of Veteran's Affairs, Harry Walters.

Sincerely,

Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison