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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: Blackwell, Morton C.: Files

OA/Box: ~~0A-0077~~ 0A 9088

File Folder: Veterans Administration: Administrator (2)

Archivist: kdb

FOIA ID: F00-084/2, Fish

Date: 06/16/2005

gm 5/8/08

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. memo	Kathy to Morton re personnel appointment, 1p	8/12/81	B6

RESTRICTIONS

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GEORGE WILLIAMSON

July 31, 1981

*file Vet.
Admin's letter*

Ms Joan Maiman
Chairperson Veterans
Leadership Conference
Apt 3409
300 N. State St.
Chicago, Ill 60610

Dear Ms. Maiman:

Several veterans organizations and many individual veterans actively supported Allen B. Clark, Jr. of Austin, Texas in his bid for Administrator of the Veterans Administration.

The President did nominate him for the position of Deputy Administrator, but due to circumstances beyond his control Mr. Clark was obliged to ask the President to withdraw his nomination thus depriving the Government and veterans of his unique capabilities.

Some press reports have been somewhat critical of Mr. Clark for asking that his name be withdrawn. I believe that the enclosed article from the Austin-American Statesman of July 22, 1981 presents a clear picture of the reasons.

I am forwarding this for your information and for such use as you may be able to make of it in advising members of your Conference of the situation.

Sincerely yours,

Geo. Williamson

GEORGE WILLIAMSON
Colonel, USAF, Retired

*mayelle,
thought you
might find this
of interest -*

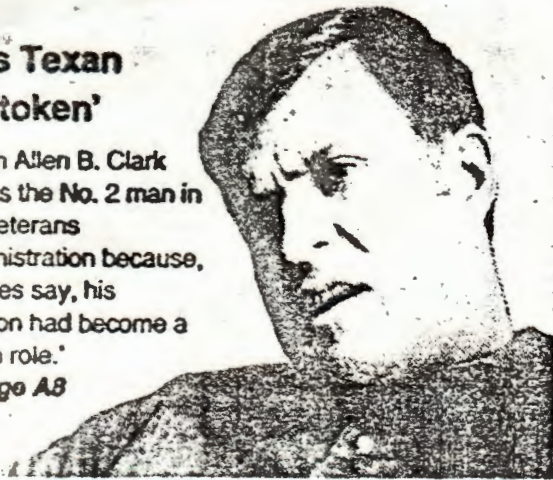
Joe

JUL 22 1981

This Texan no 'token'

Texan Allen B. Clark
quit as the No. 2 man in
the Veterans
Administration because,
sources say, his
position had become a
'token role.'

Page A8



P.1

A8

Austin American-Statesman

Austin's Clark

Wednesday, July 22, 1981

wanted no
part of being a
'token' in VA

By JOHN C. HENRY
American-Statesman Staff

Veterans of the past three wars — Vietnam, Korea and World War II — watched with pride as Allen B. Clark Jr. prepared to take over the No. 2 job in the Veterans Administration early this summer.

Not only had President Reagan tapped a highly decorated Vietnam veteran, a double amputee and West Point graduate, they thought he was sending the management-starved agency a proven line officer with a reputation for quickly getting to the heart of an issue and resolving the problems.

That was the mission Clark, 39, accepted when he headed for the Potomac, leaving behind a job as special assistant to Gov. Bill Clements to become the highest-ranking Vietnam veteran in the administration.

But before he even arrived in Washington, Clark's assignment underwent radical changes.

The changes were the result of political maneuvering within the VA that removed the former Green Beret from any substantive role in running the agency. Not only was the break with the traditional management arrangement condoned by the White House, Washington sources said it had the blessings of the president's inner circle.

"The bottom line is that this administration has for some reason been unable to come to terms with having Vietnam veterans in high-level positions over at the VA," said John Terzano, national membership director for Vietnam Veterans of America. "Where is this administration's commitment to Vietnam veterans?"

It wasn't long after Clark's arrival in Washington that veterans and longtime VA employees knew they were dealing with a character different from previous administrators. "He was refreshing," said one former infantryman who, like many other VA employees, feared for his job if quoted by name regarding Clark's brief tenure at the agency, where he oversees a \$24 billion budget and 172 veterans hospitals.

"He certainly had the management capability to stabilize the agency for the first time in a good many years," the employee said.

Faced with accepting what VA insiders described as "a token role" to appease Vietnam-era veterans or bowing out, Clark left the VA July 6 after 9½ days. Either way, sources said, substantive issues and front-line management duties were to be handled from the VA's No. 3 slot, a job given last week to former Army Sgt. Edgar "Nick" Longworth.

Longworth was personal assistant to VA Administrator Richard Roudebush during the last year of the Ford administration and then worked for the Republican National Committee.

When Reagan was elected, Longworth joined the transition team at the VA and moved into position to assume the No. 3 post and lessen the authority of the deputy administrator over day-to-day operations, two agency sources and a White House source said.

When California cattleman Robert Nimmo, 59, was named VA administrator, the World War II veteran immediately hired Longworth as the No. 3 man at the VA and retitled the position "associate deputy administrator."

Longworth and Nimmo declined to comment on the maneuverings, but a Longworth aide denied that her boss had tried to gain control over the flow of information and authority in the VA's upper echelons. The new organization plan "clearly spells out that (Longworth's post) is designed for coordination, not control, of anything," said Joan Standlee, Longworth's personal assistant.

Standlee repeated the agency's reasoning for Clark's decision to ask the White House to withdraw his deputy administrator's nomination: "The problem, basically, was that his philosophy and that of Mr. Nimmo were different. They could not agree on the direction of the agency."

The White House tells a different story, saying Clark was asked to reconsider.

"We would have loved to have retained Allen Clark in the administration because he's an extremely bright, able fellow," a White House spokesman said. "We've thought very highly of him all the way along. He told our people he had received another offer in the private sector."

VA and White House sources have another version. When the options became clear, sources said, the administration let Clark go rather than face the politically embarrassing prospect of losing Nimmo.

Nimmo was the fifth person seriously considered for VA administrator by the White House, sources said.

Marine Corps veteran Jim Webb removed his name from consideration after telling White House officials that "no one could survive in that job, particularly a Vietnam veteran, without having some absolute guarantees for policy and budget access beyond (David) Stockman." He also wanted authority to form his own team, which was not to include Longworth. "He was a real problem," Webb said.

Announcing plans to enter private business, Clark returned to Austin last week. In several interviews, he has declined to discuss details of his tenure at the VA and the circumstances of his leaving.

Before Clark quit the 215,000-employee agency, allegations surfaced in the press that he threw tantrums, invoked Clements' name during disputes and seemed more interested in perquisites than his duties.

"That was nonsense," said George Bayoud, director of the Clements Committee. "That's not Allen's style."

Clements said it would have been "out of character for Allen and I frankly don't believe it."

VA sources confirmed Bayoud's and Clements' suspicions.

"Those allegations were planted" with the press by agency officials opposed to Clark's assuming any policy-making role, one VA insider said.

"There are jealousies and rivalries when you're putting together a big organization like this," said VA public affairs officer Strat Appleman. "And this sort of thing does happen...."

"In one sense the story that he's a hard-charging guy is true," one veteran said. "Sure, Clark's ambitious. He wouldn't have gotten where he is if he hadn't been."

Clark, born in McAllen, grew up as an "Army brat." He was graduated from West Point in 1963 and volunteered for combat duty in Vietnam.

During the last few hours of his tour in 1967, an enemy mortar round landed between his feet. Clark was hospitalized for 15 months and both legs were amputated at the knee. He went through 12 operations and learned to walk with artificial legs.

"Only in the last four years have I learned to listen to him tell about this without crying," said Jackie Clark, a Dallas native who married Clark six months after he finished at West Point. Describing themselves as conservative Republicans and Evangelical Christians, the couple lives southwest of Austin with their daughters, Elizabeth, 10, and Christi, 7.

After earning a graduate degree in finance and investments from Southern Methodist University

in 1970, Clark worked five months as personal financial assistant to Dallas millionaire H. Ross Perot, chairman of Electronic Data Systems. He left Perot for Dallas' Republic Bank, a firm that was grooming him for a top management slot when he was recruited by Clements in 1978 to head his staff in Austin.

Clark helped introduce management by objectives to state government and served as Clements' trouble-shooter on several projects, including the volatile fishing dispute between Texans and Vietnamese living near Seabrook.

Staff members who worked closely with Clark found no fault with his performance.

"I could tell you he has a temper, but I'd be lying," said Janie Harris, Clements' personal secretary. "If somebody did something wrong, he'd sit them down and talk it out. He worked with them to find a solution. The staff was heartsick when he left."

Perot, a longtime supporter of Vietnam veterans, called Clark "a top-flight man. Every part of his record makes him the kind of man you want to bring into your business."

"I was thrilled when he got the (VA) job because I thought we'd finally get somebody up there to clean up the hospitals, clean up the veterans' programs. He's tough. He'd get it done."

"But we live in a world now that's got a huge segment of the people who are career employees who don't care about getting it done. And there's not enough people looking after the veterans, and Allen Clark would have looked after the veterans."



Allen B. Clark Jr.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 26, 1981

TO: ELIZABETH H. DOLE
FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL
RE: Withdrawal of Allen Clark

Larry De Meo of the Veterans Administration called me this morning and told me he had been asked by Allen Clark, the President's designee for Deputy Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Administration, to tell me that Clark was asking that the President withdraw his name from consideration for this appointment.

Larry De Meo had brought Clark over earlier this week for a courtesy visit which was very pleasant. Clark is a West Point graduate, a double amputee, who is close politically to Governor Clements from Texas.

I gather, not from DeMeo, that Clark had a difference of opinion with Robert Nimmo over organizational structure.

File

RONALD W. REAGAN LIBRARY

**THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 1 LISTED ON THE
WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.**

From the Desk of



file U.A.
Lane A. Carson

House of Representatives

Phone Office (504) 568-5970
Phone Home (504) 288-9285
7190 Downman Road,
Suite 2-B
New Orleans, LA 70126

COMMITTEES
Civil Law & Procedure
Health & Welfare
House & Governmental Affairs

SUBCOMMITTEES
Elderly
Ethics
Veteran Affairs

PATTY MAYLEY
Administrative Assistant

May 28, 1982

Dear Morton:

It appears that the position of Deputy Administrator, Veterans Administration has become vacant. As you may recall, I was one of three individuals under consideration for this position last year.

You were kind enough to send a letter or telegram on my behalf last year. Would you be so kind to send an additional letter or telegram or call of support to:

Mrs. Helene von Damm
Director, White House Personnel
Room 147
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-7590

Any additional recommendations that you can obtain for me from other parts of the country would be greatly appreciated.

With best regards,

Lane
Lane A. Carson

Enclosures



LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 28, 1982

Mrs. Helene von Damm
Director, White House Personnel
Room 147
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Deputy Administrator
Veterans Administration

Dear Mrs. von Damm:

It has come to my attention that the position of Deputy Administrator, Veterans Administration may become vacant. If this is so, I wanted to offer myself again for this position.

As one of three individuals under consideration last year, I personally interviewed with E. Pendleton James and White House Personnel.

Since that time, I have become more convinced that I can be a real asset to the Reagan Administration.

I'm enclosing a copy of my original letter of November 26, 1980, my Resume', recommendation letters and additional information which I hope you will review.

I am available anytime for interviews and look forward to personally meeting you in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Lane A. Carson".

Lane A. Carson
State Representative
District 99

LAC:PSC

Enclosures

LANE A. CARSON
District 99

Phone Office (504) 568-5970
Phone Home (504) 288-9285
7190 Downman Road, Suite 2-B
New Orleans, LA 70126

COMMITTEES
Civil Law & Procedure
Health & Welfare
House & Governmental Affairs

SUBCOMMITTEES
Elderly
Ethics
Veteran Affairs

PATTY MAYLEY
Administrative Assistant

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LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 26, 1980

Presidential Personnel
Office of the President-Elect
Washington, DC 20270

RE: Administrator
Veterans Administration

Gentlemen:

This letter will serve as notice of my interest in the position of Administrator, Veterans Administration.

I believe that I can be a real asset to the Reagan Administration due to my experience as a combat platoon leader, a disabled Vietnam veteran, a veteran organization leader, an attorney, and finally a State Representative who has been active in veteran affairs.

I've been an ardent supporter of Governor Reagan ever since he personally persuaded me to change my party affiliation in 1977. Since that time I've held the following positions in the Reagan for President campaign: Louisiana First District (Greater New Orleans) Reagan Chairman (before primaries and during election); Reagan Delegate to the Republican National Convention; Reagan Presidential Elector from Louisiana's 1st Congressional District and Member — "Reagan Flying Veteran Truth Squad from Louisiana".

I've also held many responsible leadership positions with the Louisiana Republican Party including: Orleans Parish Republican Executive Committee; Republican State Central Committee; Chairman 1st District Republican P.A.C.

I believe the position of Administrator, Veterans Administration should be held by someone who personally understands the problem of veterans. As a combat platoon leader who was wounded in Vietnam and as a disabled veteran with a 50% disability rating, I know that I understand their problems.

LANE A. CARSON
District 99

Phone Office (504) 568-5970
Phone Home (504) 288-9285
7190 Downman Road, Suite 2-B
New Orleans, LA 70126

COMMITTEES
Civil Law & Procedure
Health & Welfare
House & Governmental Affairs

SUBCOMMITTEES
Elderly
Ethics
Veteran Affairs

PATTY MAYLEY
Administrative Assistant

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Taxpayers Expense

Presidential Personnel
November 26, 1980
Page 2

After coming home from Vietnam, the Veterans Administration sent me to Tulane Law School under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act where I received my Juris Doctor in 1974. Upon graduation, I served as a law clerk for the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals for one year.

Following my clerkship, I was an associate attorney with the law firm of Hammett, Leake and Hammett (through 1976) which consisted primarily of a defense practice. Since that time, I've been a partner with the law firm of Carson & Exnicios which consists of a general civil and criminal practice.

My legislative experience for the past five years has given me particular insight into the problem of veterans. As a member of the House Veteran Affairs Committee, I've authored legislation to help veterans with employment preferences, educational benefits, hospital expansion, etc.

For my efforts in helping veterans and promoting patriotism, I have been recognized as this area's "Outstanding-Vietnam Veteran of the Year" and have recently become the first Louisianian to receive the National DAR Medal of Honor. The last recipient was General William Westmoreland in 1976. I served in various leadership positions with the VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Am Vets. I've also served as Vice-Chairman and am presently a member of the Veteran Administration's Vietnam Veteran Advisory Council.

The Reagan Administration needs a person to head up the Veterans Administration who personally understands the problems of veterans and who also has the educational, legal and legislative experience to carry it through.

I believe I'm exactly what you are looking for and I look forward to scheduling an interview with you.

Sincerely,



Lane A. Carson
State Representative
District 99

LAC:PCM

cc: Congressman Bob Livingston
Congressman Henson Moore
Governor David C. Treen
Mr. John Cade
Mr. George Despot
Mrs. Ginny Martinez
Mr. Frank Spooner

VITAE

Lane A. Carson

ADDRESS - HOME:

4679 St. Roch Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122
(504) 288-9285

OFFICE:

7190 Downman Road
Suite 2-B
New Orleans, Louisiana 70126
(504) 246-8410



PERSONAL DATA:

Age: 34
Height: 5'9"
Marital Status: Married, two children

EDUCATION:

University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, working towards Master of Arts in Political Science.

Tulane University School of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana, Juris Doctor Degree, May, 1974.

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Bachelor of Science, Business and Public Administration, December, 1971.

Alcee Fortier Senior High, New Orleans, Louisiana, High School Diploma, June 1965.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Summer 1965-1969 - Lou-Con Construction Company. Worked as a general helper.

1970-1971 - Military Service as described below.

1974-1975 - Law Clerk, Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

1976-1977 - Associate Attorney, Hammett, Leake and Hammett.

1976-Present - Member Louisiana Legislature as described below.

1977-Present - Carson & Exnicios, Attorney, partner in law practice.

MILITARY:

1970 - Entered U.S. Army as 2d Lieutenant, Infantry. Executive Officer, E Company, 5th Battalion. First Basic Combat Training Brigade, Ft. Lewis, Washington.

1971 - Combat Platoon Leader, 1st Platoon, A Company, 1/11 Infantry, 1st of 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Khe Sahn, S. Vietnam. Severely wounded from N. Vietnamese artillery during Laotian Offensive resulting in six months hospitalization and 50% disability from Veterans Administration.

GOVERNMENTAL & POLITICAL:

1976-1980 - Elected as first Vietnam veteran to Louisiana Legislature. Member of Civil Law and Procedure, House and Governmental, Health and Welfare Committees and Veterans Affairs Sub-Committee. Chairman - Sub-Committee on Ethics.

1977 - Switched party affiliation from Democrat to Republican at personal request of Governor Reagan.

1978 - Elected member, Orleans Parish Republican Executive Committee. Appointed 1st Congressional District Chairman, Republican Political Action Committee.

1979 - Elected member, Republican State Central Committee.

1979-Present - Overwhelmingly re-elected to Louisiana Legislature for another 4 year term.

1980 - Appointed 1st Congressional District Chairman for Reagan during primary. Elected as a Reagan Delegate 1st Congressional District to the Republican National Convention in Detroit. Elected as the Reagan elector from the 1st Congressional District. Appointed 1st District Chairman for Reagan-Bush (Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany and Plaquemines Parishes). Member - "Reagan Flying Veteran Truth Squad from Louisiana".

LEGAL ORGANIZATIONS:

New Orleans Bar Association
Louisiana Bar Association
Federal Bar Association
American Bar Association

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS:

Veterans of Foreign Wars
American Legion
Disabled American Veterans
Am Vets
Veterans Administration's Vietnam Veteran Advisory Council

MISCELLANEOUS ORGANIZATIONS:

Kiwanis
New Orleans East Business Association
First Baptist Church

AWARDS & HONORS

Two Purple Hearts with Bronze Star Clusters

Vietnam Campaign Medal

Vietnam Service Medal

Combat Infantryman Badge

Nominated for National Recognition as this area's "Outstanding Vietnam Veteran of the Year"

Became the first Louisianian to receive the National DAR Medal of Honor. The previous recipient was General William Westmoreland in 1976.

Mentioned in Gloria Emerson's best-selling book about Vietnam veterans, "Winners and Losers"

Citation for Meritorious Service to Veterans from Veterans Administrator, Max Cleland, November 11, 1980

COURTS TO WHICH ADMITTED:

Supreme Court of Louisiana

United States Tax Court

United States Federal District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana

REFERENCES:

Dr. J. D. Grey
4524 S. Galvez Street
New Orleans, LA 70125

Dr. Eugene A. Zeller, DVM
7608 Maple Street
New Orleans, LA 70118

Mr. Joe Wendling
President, Lou-Con, Inc.
Post Office Box 3153
New Orleans, Louisiana 70177

Rep. Earl Schmitt
Chairman, Veterans Affairs Committee
606 Opelousas Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70114

Mr. John L. McGovern, Director
Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs
4th Floor, Old State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Judge Pat Schott
Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals
210 Civil Courts Building
421 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112

Governor David C. Treen
Office of the Governor
Post Office Box 44004
Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Congressman Robert Livingston
642 F. Edward Hebert Building
610 South Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Congressman W. Henson Moore
2404 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Orleanian may land VA post

By GEORGE HAGER

Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — State Rep. Lane Carson of New Orleans is among the top candidates for appointment to head the Veterans Administration, sources here said Tuesday.

The sources said Carson's chances to land the top VA post improved recently when two other candidates were apparently disqualified for undisclosed reasons. However, the sources cautioned that the Reagan administration's appointment process is unpredictable. They said they think Carson's prospects are good, but added they have no clear idea of just how good.

Carson, 33, the conservative Democrat-turned-Republican who served as Reagan's campaign chairman in Louisiana's 1st Congressional District last year, is a former Army 2nd lieutenant and combat platoon leader who was wounded seriously in Vietnam.

Carson said in a telephone interview from New Orleans that he was contacted by the White House about two weeks ago, was asked if he were still interested in the VA position, and then was told to renew his application for the spot because two of his major competitors had been disqualified.

Carson said the call from the White

Turn to next page

Section 1, Page 20 Wednesday, March 18, 1981

The Times-Picayune/The States-Item

Carson may win post

Continued from Page 19

House was the first he'd heard on the subject since notifying Reagan officials in November that he was interested in the post.

Describing himself as "someone who's seen the system from the inside" through his experience as a wounded Vietnam vet who went through VA hospitalization and rehabilitation, Carson said he has the "expertise, experience and legislative know-how" to handle the job.

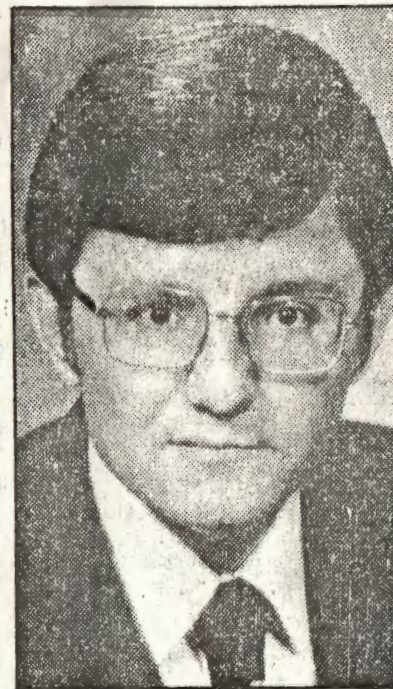
He claimed additional credentials as a "hardcore Reaganite" in whom the president could have complete confidence. He also claimed significant experience in veterans affairs through his membership and activity in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American

Legion, Disabled American Veterans, AmVets, the VA's Vietnam Veteran Advisory Council and a veterans affairs subcommittee in the Louisiana Legislature.

If he is chosen as VA head, Carson said, he will "try to dedicate my main efforts to making sure the Vietnam vet is brought back into the mainstream of society."

He pledged support for the Reagan budget-cutting initiatives, including the proposed postponement of construction of the extension to the VA hospital in New Orleans.

Carson said he has had no indication from the White House as to what his prospects are. "You never can tell — you throw your hat in the ring and you hope for the best," he said.



Lane Carson

Bible of Two Wars Returns from Vietnam: 'May the Lord be with You,' it said.



Lt. Carson

"I had deployed my platoon in a defensive perimeter around our forces," recalls Lane Carson, a former combat Lt., "when we were suddenly shelled by the VC. Two of my men were killed immediately and several of us were wounded, including myself."

Carson received multiple fragment wounds to all parts of his body and his left arm was so badly damaged that army doctors seriously considered amputation of the limb. After an agonizing week of recovery, doctors decided it was not necessary. Carson then spent six months recovering from his injury.

During the first few hours of the attack Carson lost a family bible his father had carried throughout the Pacific Theater in W.W. II.

"When I received orders to go to Vietnam, my father gave the bible to me, just as his father had given it to him. inscribed with the words 'May the Lord be with You,' I wore it

just as my father had."

"In the excitement the Bible was lost and I thought I would never see it again. But one day a young correspondent, Gloria Emerson of Cambridge, Mass., was rummaging through some old field equipment at a field hospital. She found it and sent it to my family. It was one of the happiest surprises in my life."

After convalescence and recovery, Lane Carson returned to New Orleans determined to help his fellow veterans through various organizations such as VFW Post No. 3346, in which he is Commander.

"I haven't forgotten my duty to my fellow veterans. Simply because I was discharged doesn't mean my obligation to my country is complete. We must continue to aid the veterans as much as we can, because they offered the highest sacrifices for the country they love. I cannot refuse the opportunity to help them in any way that I can."



Citizen Carson

file - V.A

GREATER NEW ORLEANS AREA
YOUNG REPUBLICAN CLUB
7190 Downman Road, Suite 2-B
New Orleans, LA 70126

March 30, 1981

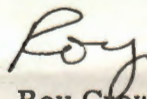
Mr. E. Pendleton James
Director of Presidential Personnel
West Wing, White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. James:

We are sending along a copy of a Resolution concerning Lane Carson's application to become head of the Veterans Administration. The Resolution was passed without opposition at a meeting held on March 18, 1981.

We think this show of support for Lane Carson is indicative of the feelings of almost all Republicans, conservatives and veterans in Louisiana.

Sincerely,



Roy Crews III
President, GNOAYR

cc: Mr. Morton Blackwell
Honorable Bob Livingston
Honorable Henson Moore

R E S O L U T I O N
OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS AREA YOUNG REPUBLICAN CLUB
IN SUPPORT OF LANE CARSON

WHEREAS, Lane Carson is an outstanding Young Republican State Legislator.

WHEREAS, Lane has literally shed blood for his country as evidenced by two Purple Hearts received in Vietnam.

WHEREAS, Lane Carson, who represents an overwhelmingly Democratic district, switched to the Republican Party at a time when the G.O.P.'s fortunes were at low ebb.

WHEREAS, Lane devoted great time and effort to ensure the nomination and election of President Reagan.

WHEREAS, Lane Carson's efforts on President Reagan's behalf played a significant role in carrying Louisiana for the Republican ticket in 1980.

WHEREAS, Lane is a highly successful attorney and businessman.

WHEREAS, Lane Carson has given invaluable aid to the Greater New Orleans Area Young Republican Club and to individual Young Republicans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Orleans Area Young Republicans wholeheartedly endorse Lane in his efforts to achieve nomination to the post of Administrator of the Veterans Administration.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater New Orleans Area Young Republicans urge the Reagan Administration to give most careful consideration to Lane's candidacy because of his loyalty, energy and ability.

From the Desk of



Lane A. Carson

House of Representatives

Phone Office (504) 568-5970
Phone Home (504) 288-9285
7190 Downman Road,
Suite 2-B
New Orleans, LA 70126

COMMITTEES
Civil Law & Procedure
Health & Welfare
House & Governmental Affairs

SUBCOMMITTEES
Elderly
Ethics
Veteran Affairs

PATTY MAYLEY
Administrative Assistant

April 3, 1981

Dear Morton:

The attached article appeared in today's edition of the New Orleans Times Picayune regarding the VA Administrator post. I thought you might be interested.

lane

Ex-Marine in lead for top VA post

WASHINGTON (AP) — James Webb, a decorated ex-Marine who wrote what has been called the best novel about the Vietnam war, is the leading candidate to head the Veterans Administration, high officials said Wednesday.

In March, state Rep. Lane Carson, R-New Orleans, had been mentioned as a top contender for the VA post, and apparently is still being considered.

Mylio Kraja, legislative director of the American Legion, said he had heard that among those said to be under consideration, in addition to Webb, are Carson and two other Vietnam veterans. — Allen P. Clark, an amputee who is special assistant to Gov. William P. Clements Jr. of Texas, and Everett Alvarez, the first America pilot shot down over North Vietnam.

The appointment of Webb would end a fight that has been going on since Ronald Reagan won the presidential election. It pits the old-line veterans' organizations, like the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, which endorsed Reagan, against younger groups like Vietnam Veterans of America.

Leaders of the Vietnam veterans say the fight involves not only who heads the third largest agency in the government. They say that also at stake is whether the VA gives priority to the needs of an aging population of World War II veterans or to the rehabilitation and health problems of Vietnam veterans.

Webb, an Annapolis graduate, is the author of "Fields of Fire," and a new novel, "A Sense of Honor." For a time, his second book was banned by the bookstore of the U.S. Naval Academy, because the school considered it vulgar and inaccurate. He is also Republican counsel to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Webb, 35, won the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart while serving as a young officer in Vietnam.

Webb said he is not certain he wants the job, but he has talked about it with White House officials. One Reagan administration official, asking not to be identified, said Webb heads a list of nine potential candidates.

"I've been torn," Webb said in an interview. "I'm finally at the point where I'm developing as a writer. And it's a no-win job. But not accepting it would be like running away from a fight."

Webb is critical of the way the VA has been run and says he would give far more attention to the readjustment problems of Vietnam veterans, for whom he says he feels a "spiritual commitment."

He also said he wanted to find out for sure whether GIs exposed to the dangerous herbicide Agent Orange, which was used as a defoliant in Vietnam, are in danger of suffering severe health repercussions.

The VA, with a \$24 billion budget and 220,000 employees, remains leaderless 10 weeks after Reagan took office.

In February, the White House was within 24 hours of giving the job to John Behan, a Vietnam veteran and amputee who is a New York State assemblyman and has the backing of CIA Director William J. Casey, chairman of Reagan's presidential campaign.

At a Republican fund-raising dinner on Feb. 19, Reagan's daughter, Maureen, publicly congratulated Behan for landing the appointment.

But Rep. Thomas B. Evans Jr., R-Del., a confidant of Reagan, hurried to the White House and got the announcement put off.



LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 5, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Public Liason Office
Room 128 Old Executive Office Building
17th and Pennsylvania
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Morton:

I certainly do appreciate all of your help and I'm glad to be under consideration for the position of Administrator, Veteran Affairs.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of my original letter of November 26, 1980 applying for that position along with my Resume' as well as letters of recommendation from various Republican and veteran leaders.

I sincerely feel that I can be a good administrator for veterans and a real asset to President Reagan's administration.

Once again, thanks for all of your help.

Sincerely,

Lane A. Carson
State Representative
District 99

LAC:PCM

Enclosures

Vets Admin
LANE A. CARSON
District 99

Phone Office (504) 568-5970
Phone Home (504) 288-9285
7190 Downman Road, Suite 2-B
New Orleans, LA 70126

COMMITTEES
Civil Law & Procedure
Health & Welfare
House & Governmental Affairs

SUBCOMMITTEES
Elderly
Ethics
Veteran Affairs

PATTY MAYLEY
Administrative Assistant

Not Printed at
Taxpayers Expense



LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LANE A. CARSON
District 99

Phone Office (504) 568-5970
Phone Home (504) 288-9285
7190 Downman Road, Suite 2-B
New Orleans, LA 70126

November 26, 1980

COMMITTEES
Civil Law & Procedure
Health & Welfare
House & Governmental Affairs

SUBCOMMITTEES
Elderly
Ethics
Veteran Affairs

PATTY MAYLEY
Administrative Assistant

Not Printed at
Taxpayers Expense

Presidential Personnel
Office of the President-Elect
Washington, DC 20270

RE: Administrator
Veterans Administration

Gentlemen:

This letter will serve as notice of my interest in the position of Administrator, Veterans Administration.

I believe that I can be a real asset to the Reagan Administration due to my experience as a combat platoon leader, a disabled Vietnam veteran, a veteran organization leader, an attorney, and finally a State Representative who has been active in veteran affairs.

I've been an ardent supporter of Governor Reagan ever since he personally persuaded me to change my party affiliation in 1977. Since that time I've held the following positions in the Reagan for President campaign: Louisiana First District (Greater New Orleans) Reagan Chairman (before primaries and during election); Reagan Delegate to the Republican National Convention; Reagan Presidential Elector from Louisiana's 1st Congressional District and Member — "Reagan Flying Veteran Truth Squad from Louisiana".

I've also held many responsible leadership positions with the Louisiana Republican Party including: Orleans Parish Republican Executive Committee; Republican State Central Committee; Chairman 1st District Republican P.A.C.

I believe the position of Administrator, Veterans Administration should be held by someone who personally understands the problem of veterans. As a combat platoon leader who was wounded in Vietnam and as a disabled veteran with a 50% disability rating, I know that I understand their problems.

Presidential Personnel
November 26, 1980
Page 2

After coming home from Vietnam, the Veterans Administration sent me to Tulane Law School under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act where I received my Juris Doctor in 1974. Upon graduation, I served as a law clerk for the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals for one year.

Following my clerkship, I was an associate attorney with the law firm of Hammett, Leake and Hammett (through 1976) which consisted primarily of a defense practice. Since that time, I've been a partner with the law firm of Carson & Exnicios which consists of a general civil and criminal practice.

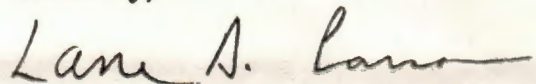
My legislative experience for the past five years has given me particular insight into the problem of veterans. As a member of the House Veteran Affairs Committee, I've authored legislation to help veterans with employment preferences, educational benefits, hospital expansion, etc.

For my efforts in helping veterans and promoting patriotism, I have been recognized as this area's "Outstanding Vietnam Veteran of the Year" and have recently become the first Louisianian to receive the National DAR Medal of Honor. The last recipient was General William Westmoreland in 1976. I served in various leadership positions with the VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Am Vets. I've also served as Vice-Chairman and am presently a member of the Veteran Administration's Vietnam Veteran Advisory Council.

The Reagan Administration needs a person to head up the Veterans Administration who personally understands the problems of veterans and who also has the educational, legal and legislative experience to carry it through.

I believe I'm exactly what you are looking for and I look forward to scheduling an interview with you.

Sincerely,



Lane A. Carson
State Representative
District 99

LAC:PCM

cc: Congressman Bob Livingston
Congressman Henson Moore
Governor David C. Treen
Mr. John Cade
Mr. George Despot
Mrs. Ginny Martinez
Mr. Frank Spooner

VITAE

Lane A. Carson

ADDRESS - HOME:

4679 St. Roch Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122
(504) 288-9285

OFFICE:

7190 Downman Road
Suite 2-B
New Orleans, Louisiana 70126
(504) 246-8410

PERSONAL DATA:

Age: 33

Height: 5'9"

Marital Status: Married, one child

EDUCATION:

University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, working towards Master of Arts in Political Science.

Tulane University School of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana, Juris Doctor Degree, May, 1974.

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Bachelor of Science, Business and Public Administration, December, 1971.

Alcee Fortier Senior High, New Orleans, Louisiana, High School Diploma, June 1965.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Summer 1965-1969 - Lou-Con Construction Company. Worked as a general helper.

1970-1971 - Military Service as described below.

1974-1975 - Law Clerk, Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

1976-1977 - Associate Attorney, Hammett, Leake and Hammett.

1976-Present - Member Louisiana Legislature as described below.

1977-Present - Carson & Exnicios, Attorney, partner in law practice.



MILITARY:

1970 - Entered U.S. Army as 2d Lieutenant, Infantry. Executive Officer, E Company, 5th Battalion. First Basic Combat Training Brigade, Ft. Lewis, Washington.

1971 - Combat Platoon Leader, 1st Platoon, A Company, 1/11 Infantry, 1st of 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Khe Sahn, S. Vietnam. Severely wounded from N. Vietnamese artillery during Laotian Offensive resulting in six months hospitalization and 50% disability from Veterans Administration.

GOVERNMENTAL & POLITICAL:

1976-1980 - Elected as first Vietnam veteran to Louisiana Legislature. Member of Civil Law and Procedure, House and Governmental, Health and Welfare Committees and Veterans Affairs Sub-Committee. Chairman - Sub-Committee on Ethics.

1977 - Switched party affiliation from Democrat to Republican at personal request of Governor Reagan.

1978 - Elected member, Orleans Parish Republican Executive Committee. Appointed 1st Congressional District Chairman, Republican Political Action Committee.

1979 - Elected member, Republican State Central Committee.

1979-Present - Overwhelmingly re-elected to Louisiana Legislature for another 4 year term.

1980 - Appointed 1st Congressional District Chairman for Reagan during primary. Elected as a Reagan Delegate 1st Congressional District to the Republican National Convention in Detroit. Elected as the Reagan elector from the 1st Congressional District. Appointed 1st District Chairman for Reagan-Bush (Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany and Plaquemines Parishes). Member - "Reagan Flying Veteran Truth Squad from Louisiana".

LEGAL ORGANIZATIONS:

New Orleans Bar Association
Louisiana Bar Association
Federal Bar Association
American Bar Association

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS:

Veterans of Foreign Wars
American Legion
Disabled American Veterans
Am Vets
Veterans Administration's Vietnam Veteran Advisory Council

MISCELLANEOUS ORGANIZATIONS:

Kiwanis
New Orleans East Business Association
First Baptist Church

AWARDS & HONORS

Two Purple Hearts with Bronze Star Clusters

Vietnam Campaign Medal

Vietnam Service Medal

Combat Infantryman Badge

Nominated for National Recognition as this area's "Outstanding Vietnam Veteran of the Year"

Became the first Louisianian to receive the National DAR Medal of Honor. The previous recipient was General William Westmoreland in 1976.

Mentioned in Gloria Emerson's best-selling book about Vietnam veterans, "Winners and Losers"

Citation for Meritorious Service to Veterans from Veterans Administrator, Max Cleland, November 11, 1980

COURTS TO WHICH ADMITTED:

Supreme Court of Louisiana

United States Tax Court

United States Federal District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana

REFERENCES:

Dr. J. D. Grey
4524 S. Galvez Street
New Orleans, LA 70125

Dr. Eugene A. Zeller, DVM
7608 Maple Street
New Orleans, LA 70118

Mr. Joe Wendling
President, Lou-Con, Inc.
Post Office Box 3153
New Orleans, Louisiana 70177

Rep. Earl Schmitt
Chairman, Veterans Affairs Committee
606 Opelousas Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70114

Mr. John L. McGovern, Director
Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs
4th Floor, Old State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Judge Pat Schott
Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals
210 Civil Courts Building
421 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112

Governor David C. Treen
Office of the Governor
Post Office Box 44004
Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Congressman Robert Livingston
642 F. Edward Hebert Building
610 South Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Congressman W. Henson Moore
2404 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515



STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

December 2, 1980

DAVID C. THEEN
Governor

4th Floor, Old State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801
(504) 342-5920

JOHN L. MCGOVERN
Director

Presidential Personnel
Office of the President-Elect
Washington, D. C. 20270

Gentlemen:

I respectfully request that Lane A. Carson be considered for the position of Administrator of Veterans Affairs, United States Veterans Administration.

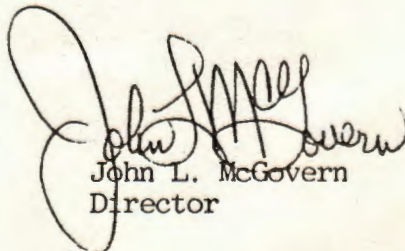
I have known Lane since early 1975 and I rush to state that this relationship has been totally veteran oriented. Since the beginning of this friendship, Lane has always displayed a high interest level in all veterans programs with the focus being on continued and improved service to veterans.

He has been an outstanding voice for the veterans of Louisiana in the Louisiana Legislature as a member of the House of Representatives. I have viewed Representative Carson's enthusiasm and effectiveness on legislation that impacts upon veterans. While he is very much oriented into veterans service, his knowledge, expertise and compassion for the needs of people in human and governmental affairs programs is extensive.

I could recite Lane's accomplishments as a Viet Nam veteran, his special recognitions and awards received as a result of combat and subsequent service to his state and nation. He has an outstanding educational background which makes him well suited for the high position of Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

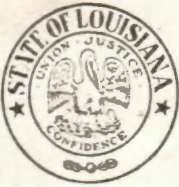
If there is any additional information that I can provide to you relative to the high character and standards of Lane Carson, I shall be happy to provide addendum information at your convenience by request.

Sincerely,



John L. McGovern
Director

JLMcG:pe



LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EARL J. SCHMITT
District 87

Phone Office (504) 568-7650
Phone Home (504) 361-3764
430 Opelousas Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70114

COMMITTEES
House & Governmental Affairs
Retirement
Transportation, Highways & Public Works
Veteran Affairs, Sub-Committee

December 3, 1980

C
O
P
Y
Presidential Personnel
Office of the President-Elect
Washington, D.C. 20270

Gentlemen:

I am writing this letter concerning the application of Representative Lane A. Carson for the position of Administrator, Veterans Administration.

It has been my pleasure to know Lane personally since he was elected in 1976. As chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Veterans Affairs, he has shown a very keen interest in legislation and benefits which we have steered through our state legislature.

I am very pleased to add my recommendation that Lane be strongly considered for this position, as I feel he is a young, astute, energetic attorney who would show very keen interest in affairs concerning our former service people.

If there is any further information you need, I shall appreciate hearing from you.

Yours very truly,

Earl J. Schmitt
District 87

EJS:gmw

cc: Honorable Lane A. Carson

ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON
1ST DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
ROOM 130
CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3015

DISTRICT OFFICE:
642 F. EDWARD HEBERT BUILDING
610 SOUTH STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130
(504) 585-2753



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 17, 1980

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND TRANSPORTATION

SUBCOMMITTEES:
WATER RESOURCES
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT
MARINE AND FISHERIES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
COAST GUARD AND NAVIGATION
MERCHANT MARINE
PANAMA CANAL

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
OFFICIAL CONDUCT

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL

Mr. William Ayres
Office of the President-elect
1726 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Bill:

State Representative Lane Carson would make an excellent Director of the Veterans Administration.

A disabled veteran himself, Lane has served the State of Louisiana well in his two terms as State Representative, and he has distinguished himself as a leader of veterans causes throughout our State.

Furthermore, he has been a strong follower and advocate of Ronald Reagan for many years; in fact, it was Governor Reagan's appearance for me that convinced Lane to become a Republican about three years ago.

Thus, as a Republican, combat platoon leader, disabled Vietnam veteran, veteran organization leader, attorney, and State Representative, Lane would serve well as Administrator of the Veterans Administration.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON
Member of Congress

RLL:j
bcc: Mr. Tom Korologos
✓ Mr. Lane Carson

W. HENSON MOORE
6TH DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
TRADE
OVERSIGHT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

December 9, 1980

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2404 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3901

DISTRICT OFFICES:
236 FEDERAL BUILDING
750 FLORIDA STREET
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70801
(504) 344-7679

MOBILE OFFICE

HAMMOND TELEPHONE
(504) 345-4929

Honorable Lane A. Carson
State Representative - District 99
7190 Downman Road, Suite 2-B
New Orleans, Louisiana 70126

Dear Lane:

I have received your letter of November 26, 1980 and I certainly agree that you are most qualified for the position as Administrator of the Veterans' Administration. I want you to know that this date I have contacted the transition office on your behalf strongly recommending your appointment to this position. I have forwarded them a copy of your resume to be sure they have it.

Let me know if there is anything else I can do to be of assistance to you.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Henson", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

W. Henson Moore
Member of Congress

WHM:sc