

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 13, 2016

Honorable Ashton B. Carter  
Secretary of Defense  
1400 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Carter:

We write concerning a pending Medal of Honor application for CPL David D. White of the 37th Massachusetts Regiment during the Civil War. The Medal of Honor would be awarded for his capture of Confederate Major General George Washington Custis Lee, son of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, during the Battle of Sailor's Creek, Virginia, on April 6, 1865.

CPL White was originally recommended for the Medal of Honor in 1897 in an action brought forth collectively by his former comrades, the members of the 37th Massachusetts Veterans Association. Unfortunately, consideration of his application was prematurely terminated.

The David D. White Medal of Honor Foundation has spent years preparing an impressive application for reconsideration of CPL White's Medal of Honor. On July 11, 2011 the Army Decorations Board recommended approval of the Medal of Honor for CPL White and on August 8, 2011 the Army Center for Military History deemed the application to be historically accurate. However on March 8, 2016 the Senior Army Decorations Board disapproved awarding a Medal of Honor to David D. White and this action was concurred by Acting Army Secretary Patrick Murphy.

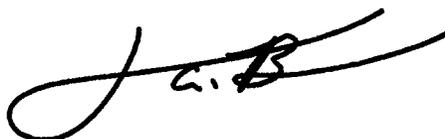
Attached for your review is an executive summary compiled by the Foundation that includes a timeline containing the major milestones that occurred during this evaluation process. We believe an inquiry initiated by the Department of Defense Inspector General (DOD OIG) would scrutinize the evaluation process and investigate errors the Foundation believes were made during the process. Specifically, we request an investigation similar to the one that was performed by the DOD OIG in its review of the Medal of Honor process for Sgt. 1st Class Earl Plumlee, initiated by Congressman Duncan Hunter on May 19, 2015, and concluded by the DOD OIG on May 4, 2016, with a final written report. We respectfully request that while the DOD OIG investigates this matter, they address and act upon the four [4] specific requests that are clearly outlined in the Foundation's executive summary.

Given the prestige of the Medal of Honor, the importance of preserving its integrity and the tremendous work the Foundation has put into its application, we believe further review of this matter is merited.

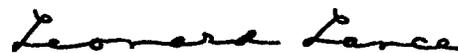
We appreciate your review.



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress

Enclosure