



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

DEC 01 2017

The Honorable Julia Brownley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Brownley:

I am writing in response to your request for award of the Medal of Honor to then-Gunnery Sergeant John L. Canley, Sergeant Major (Ret.), USMC, under section 1130 of title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), *Consideration of proposals for decorations not previously submitted in timely fashion: procedures for review.*

I reviewed the proposal to upgrade, to the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross awarded to then-Gunnery Sergeant Canley for his valorous actions from January 31 to February 6, 1968, during the Vietnam War. After giving the nomination careful consideration, I agree that then-Gunnery Sergeant Canley's actions merit award of the Medal of Honor.

However, section 6248 of title 10, U.S.C., requires that the Medal of Honor be awarded "within five years after the date of the act or service justifying the award." Before we can take further action with this nomination, Congress must waive this time limit. Once legislation is enacted authorizing the President of the United States, if he so chooses, to award Sergeant Major Canley the Medal of Honor, I will provide my endorsement to the President. The final award authority for the Medal of Honor rests solely with the President. My favorable determination in no way presumes what the President's decision might be.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. A similar letter is being sent to the Senate and House Committees on Armed Services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John M. Mattis".