

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 7, 2016

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Carter:

We write in strong support of the posthumous nomination of Air Force Sergeant John Chapman for the Medal of Honor. Sergeant Chapman's nomination has been endorsed by Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James and is currently under your consideration.

Raised in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, Sergeant Chapman courageously served and made the ultimate sacrifice to protect his fellow war fighters and our nation. During Operation Anaconda – a March 2002 mission in the eastern mountains of Afghanistan – Sergeant Chapman served as an Air Force technical sergeant radioman embedded with SEAL Team Six. In an effort to rescue a fallen team member, Sergeant Chapman killed two al Qaeda fighters before he was wounded. After sustaining these injuries, Sergeant Chapman was believed to be dead. We may never fully or conclusively know what happened at the end of this mission, but unquestionably, Sergeant Chapman died a hero and bravely continued to fight despite his serious injuries. At the time of his team's extraction, Sergeant Chapman may well have dealt fatal blows to the enemy and fought fearlessly before succumbing to additional combat wounds.

Regardless of the exact circumstances of his death, Sergeant Chapman's valiant actions rightfully qualify him for the Medal of Honor. We are confident that your review of the available evidence will support that his actions displayed uncommon valor and extraordinary dedication, confirming Sergeant Chapman's heroism and sacrifice.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,




RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate

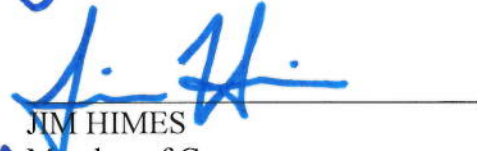


CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senate

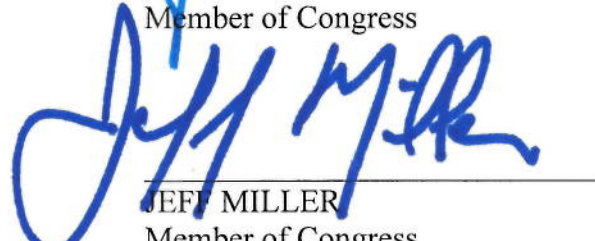

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