

Dear,

I am writing to ask your support for America's least recognized and clearly most neglected Veterans. Veterans who returned home and were unprecedented as the most reviled of any who served this country in war: The Vietnam Veteran. At the same time Vietnam may be the only war we ever fought in which the heroism was accompanied by humanitarianism unmatched in the annals of warfare. It is important to note that that humanitarianism took place during the "heat of battle." The GI fixed as he fought, cured, educated and built in the middle of battle. What other Army has ever done that? That humanitarian success was a unique and a great victory in Vietnam.

Spearheading those humanitarian efforts were the Dustoff Crews (the name given the crews completing the medical evacuation missions) who rescued over 900,000 patients flying the most dangerous mission of all the aviation missions for the military services in the Vietnam War. Those rescued patients included allied and enemy forces and civilian men, women, and children. In addition to those rescues, Dustoff crews were the front line transportation who carried thousands of medical personnel to complete the "Medical Civilian Assistance Program" (MEDCAP) to hundreds of villages and hamlets. The humanitarian MEDCAP program rendered medical aide that was both routine and lifesaving to thousands of indigenous people in Vietnam. Anyone who visits Vietnam today, some 50 years later, will see the fruits of the GI's efforts of charity and care to those people.

It is fitting and proper, as DOD commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, that Congress honor the Dustoff Crews whose mantra in caring for the sick, wounded and injured from the beginning was, "no hesitation, no reservation, no compromise" despite the profound danger in completing their medical mission. The Congressional Gold Medal will recognize that unheralded valor for the most revered of all those who served in Vietnam. General Abrams, the supreme commander of all forces, singled out the Dustoff Crews with these words' "A special word about the Dustoff's - Courage above and beyond the call of duty was sort of routine to them. It was a daily thing, part of the way they lived. That's the great part and it meant so much to every last man who served there. Whether he ever got hurt or not, he knew Dustoff was there. It was a great thing for our people."

We have a bill in both Houses of Congress – **S:2268** and **H.R. 5299**. This effort has the support of every major veteran's organization in America. Please join the veterans of America and cosponsor a Congressional Gold Medal for these singularly most remarkable, selfless and courageous unrecognized Veterans.

Sincerely,