

Bulk DOS Pardon

Norman, OK 73072

b6/7c

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

WLB-6555.13-00J

RECEIVED


JUN 20 2008

AGENCY LIAISON

Dear Mr. President:

It is Memorial Day, 2008, and as I set at my desk watching the events at the Tomb of the Unknowns unfold on the television, I have an overwhelming urge to follow through on a commitment that I have made to myself.




My  Randall Harold Cunningham, who became a national hero during the Vietnam War and, later, who served as a U.S. Congressman, has disgraced himself and his family and all who are associated with him and looked up to him through a series of purely selfish, highly dishonest acts of greed.

He has received a fair trial and a just sentence for his crimes against his country and his fellow citizens. I have no arguments against the justice meted out to him by the judge – he is deserving of that sentence.

I do not claim that he has been sufficiently punished – I have no perspective concerning how much incarceration is appropriate for his despicable acts against his fellow citizens.

What I cannot bring myself to countenance is the thought of this dishonored national hero dying in the disgrace that he has brought upon himself and all others associated with him. Whatever else he may deserve as a consequence of his egregious felonious acts, based solely on his unselfish and heroic earlier actions as a US Navy aviator serving under the most challenging and dangerous conditions imaginable – and suffering the consequences of being shot down by a North Vietnamese SAM missile – Randy Cunningham does not deserve to die in prison.

Although it would be futile to attempt to balance the acts of heroic national service with crimes against that same country, I make my personal, considered and honest appeal that you commute the sentence of Randal Harold Cunningham to time served and release him from prison that he may have a final opportunity to exhibit contrition as a humiliated and humbled free individual.

With utmost sincerity, I am,


McElroy, Brenda (OPA)

b6/7c

From: McElroy, Brenda (OPA) on behalf of FOIA, OPAFOIA (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 6:09 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Randall "Duke" Cunningham

Mr. [REDACTED]

This is to acknowledge receipt of your e-mail supporting clemency for former Congressman Randall Cunningham. A copy of your e-mail will be provided to Samuel Morison, the attorney on our staff assigned to work with the Congressman's application for inclusion in the case file.

Sincerely,
Brenda McElroy
FOIA Officer
Office of the Pardon Attorney

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 6:00 PM
To: FOIA, OPAFOIA (OPA)
Subject: Randall "Duke" Cunningham

My name is [REDACTED]. I am just a very common ordinary US citizen. I went to [REDACTED] with Randy Cunningham and have not seen or talk to him personally since [REDACTED]. The Randy Cunningham I knew is not the Randy Cunningham who betrayed his district and his constituents. He became a hometown hero after his service in Viet Nam. To a little town of 2000 people who just try to get by and have done their share in war and peace, he was someone we could talk about with pride.

I know, as does the world, that Randy Cunningham did an awful thing by misusing his elected office. He is in prison and is paying a very high price for his actions. I am ashamed for him for that part of his life. I truly believe he was a small town young man who got caught up in a life that he was not familiar with and just didn't realize until it was to late that he had taken a very wrong turn in his job and his life.

I would ask that he be considered for a pardon by President Bush. He has paid a high price for his crimes. I think he also deserves to live whatever life he has left at least as a free man. I am fairly certain he realized his mistakes before even being sent to prison. He will never again be in a position where he could abuse his power and privilege. He will never be a whole man again. I know the Randy Cunningham I knew will never forgive himself and will suffer through his own thoughts until he dies.

I can not see where he is a threat to society and he once contributed a great deal at great risk to his own life. I am speaking of his contribution during the Viet Nam war.

I am sorry I don't know the proper way to go about this so I hope this is ok.

Thank You for your time and consideration.

Sincerely;

[REDACTED]
Liberty, Mo. 64068

7/23/2008

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June 6, 2007

b6/7c RECEIVED JUN -2 PM 12:35
JUN 9 2007 EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

AGENCY LIAISON
SCANNER

Dear Mr. President,

I am enclosing a letter that I sent to Ex Congressman Randall Cunningham. As I am sure you are aware he is serving a prison sentence for conviction on a bribery charge.

I know you are a former pilot and as such I know you must be aware of his exploits during the Vietnam War. He was an Ace and was shot down over North Vietnam and was fortunate to be rescued before becoming a prisoner. He is truly an aviation legend by any measurement and served his country bravely. Very few people know what he and his comrades went through over there and they certainly were never given their due when they returned home.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. I know the terrible things these men endured and I can tell you as a physician they did not come back without serious problems almost to a man.

The purpose of my letter is to ask you to please consider a pardon for this truly great American. We all have made mistakes in our lives but I believe he is being harshly punished for what he did wrong. You have the power to forgive this man as I and most Americans would if they only were to know this man. He deserves a better end to his life for what he has done for us.

b6/7c

I thank you for your consideration in this matter. I realize these are tough times for you also but I urge you to remain steadfast in your convictions. You have much more support than the press is giving you credit for. This country owes a great debt to Mr. Cunningham and I am afraid you are his last hope. I urge you to please give this man peace with his family in his latter years.

Sincerely yours,



Wall, New Jersey, 07719



March 27, 2007

b6/7c

Dear Mr. Cunningham,

I am a physician and [REDACTED] I have been meaning to write to you ever since I saw your statement outside the Courthouse after your conviction. I feel so sorry that you and your family have to undergo this sorrow.

As a pilot myself I have followed you as a legend in the aviation community. I too served [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] But I did take care of many pilots and their families and I think I understand what you and your bretheren went through. Your sacrifices and the things you endured for our country should never be forgotten.

I know you realize that you made mistakes and I do not condone the wrong decisions you made. I do however forgive you because I and all Americans owe you that for your service. You are a legitimate American hero and I feel terrible that your senior years will be spent in prison. Unfortunately Washington is a very unforgiving place and there are many who are willing to go after people who make a mistake. I guess this is why I am writing to you because although you made a mistake (as most of us have) you are being punished severely and I think out of proportion to what you did. You need to remember that a man will be judged in the end for his entire life not just a brief moment.

b6/7c

I hope that this brief note will be of some consolation to you and I hope your time in prison will pass quickly and peacefully. May God bless you and console you in your time of need. Thank you once again for the many good things you have done for your country.

Sincerely yours,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the address of the sender.

Wall, New Jersey, 07719

b6/7c

[REDACTED]
Roanoke, Virginia 24018

[REDACTED]
December 8, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing this letter as a plea for clemency for **CDR Randy Cunningham USN (retired)**. As you know, CDR Cunningham is currently serving an eight year sentence in federal prison for accepting bribes while a member of the House of Representatives. While I certainly do not condone this behavior, I believe the public interest is best served by showing mercy to this fallen soul.

As you are undoubtedly aware, CDR Cunningham volunteered as a young man to serve in the United States Navy during the Vietnam conflict. He was selected for flight training and designated as a Naval Aviator, much as you did in the Texas Air National Guard. He served as a combat carrier pilot, much as your father did in World War II. In Vietnam, he and his radar intercept officer (RIO) shot down five enemy MiG's, becoming only one of two American Accs of this war. After achieving his last "kill," CDR Cunningham's plane was shot down by a surface-to-air missile, forcing him and his RIO to eject. CDR Cunningham was one of the most decorated pilots of the Vietnam conflict, and one of the few heroes to receive media attention in that unpopular war.

And now this former hero of his country languishes in a federal prison, a convicted felon, disgraced, and cut off from his family and his former shipmates. There is nothing that can ever be done that will restore his reputation, and CDR Cunningham must bear this burden alone because of his own, heinous acts. But shouldn't the final balance of a man's life be the sum of his accomplishments and not just the final public acts? Shouldn't CDR Cunningham's spotless combat record be considered as he now pays his debt to society? Is he not entitled to some leniency for his heroic behavior?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] if he serves his full sentence until 2013. As a matter of mercy to an old, [REDACTED] man, as a tribute to his distinguished service to his country in a forgotten, unpopular war, I urge you to commute his sentence to time served and send him home to his family.

Respectfully Yours,
[REDACTED]

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SCANNED
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April 3, 2007

MAY 25 2007

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

b6/7c

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
RECEIVED
MAY 21 AM 10:03
AGENCY LIAISON

Dear Mr. President,

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I am proud to be an American citizen. I honorably served in our Navy and bask in the enduring freedom that this country not only gives to me, but to all people who legally continue to arrive to share in our American dream. I have written to you previously, as I have every president since Ronald Reagan to show my support and appreciation for a tough job that sometimes must feel like Atlas'. I want to thank you for being President. I also have a request.

I know that I am but one voice, but like casting a single ballot, a voice of the collective can change the world. As a person growing up in [REDACTED], few opportunities and even fewer roll models existed. Some chose gangs and drugs for their escape. I chose to be an [REDACTED]. I worked hard, saved money, graduated from [REDACTED], joined the Navy and used my [REDACTED] goal. It was a long road, but I remained focused. My driving inspiration and roll model, the person whom I aspired to be, was Randall "Duke" Cunningham.

As a fighter pilot in Vietnam and congressman in California, he served our country in ways which all Americans should aspire. If everything goes well with the future of the world, hopefully he will be the last jet ace of the U.S. Navy.

As humans, we are all subject to distractions which can compromise our goals and beliefs. Duke Cunningham succumbed to these distractions and paid the ultimate price, the loss of his freedom, career, and sterling legacy. The same system which he fiercely protected with his life had caught him, and rightfully so.

I am a firm believer in the American justice system. Its borrowing by our founding fathers from thousands of years of the Greek and Roman legal systems has precipitated the most powerful system of justice for the people of our nation. Mr. Cunningham was stripped of his prestige, his duty, and his honor. Through his greed he showed that we are all human, and that anyone can succumb to temptation. Fortunately his crime did not destroy lives nor tear a fabric that cannot be sewn. He will not again commit the crime which he has humbly admitted to, or anything similar, as he has not the capacity or capability. His personal loss is something which will be very difficult to restore. Mr. Cunningham has had time to deal with this, and as a man, hero, warrior, and pilot, honor is the most fleeting possession.

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Through correspondence with Mr. Cunningham, I feel that he has learned from his mistakes and his motivation and charisma will again foster the sterling example that he once gave us. There is nothing more for him to be gained in prison; however his benefit to our country diminishes with every second of the clock.

Mr. President, I am asking and hoping that you in your Executive clemency, as Chief of the Greatest Nation, bestow a gesture of pardon upon Mr. Randall "Duke" Cunningham, inmate number 94405-198, one of America's sons who stumbled while he carried her torch of liberty.

Thank you,



[REDACTED]
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
[REDACTED]

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Point Loma, CA 92106

April 18, 2006

Commander-in-Chief Bush,

b6/7c

Before you leave office Adm. Randy
Cunningham, USN RET, the only Navy Pilot
 Ace during the Vietnam War, should be
pardoned by you, his CINC.

The U.S. Navy exploited Randy by
 returning him stateside and sending him
 all over the country to tell audiences how
 great he was for shooting down five enemy MiGs.

This year-long unusual experience
 gave Randy the notion that he could do no
 wrong! So when he was overwhelmingly elected to
 Congress he carried over his learned,
 untouchable attitude. He lost sense of common-
 sense by becoming an unsound thinker.

The S.D. Union uncovered this time war
 hero's wrong doing. They then witheld the story
 for many months winning the coveted Pulitzer
 Prize. They too, like Randy, crossed the moral
 line as shown in the front page picture of
 today's paper.

You, as CINC can fully understand that
 he deserves a Pardon by our government.