

1010 Angeles, Wash. 90002  
September 10, 1979

President James Carter  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am a disabled veteran of the Vietnam War. When I went to Vietnam in 1971 to serve with an Air Rescue & Recovery Squadron, I considered this an important mission as it would be an opportunity to save lives instead of taking them. Our motto in the 37th ARRS (Da Nang) was: "That Others May Live."

I was a flight engineer on the HH53 helicopter, nick-named "The Jolly Green Giant", the same kind that serves you in the D.C. area. I served as door gunner, performed all the flight checks, and most importantly, I would operate the hoist during the final stages of our combat mission. I would have complete control of the chopper during the hover, barking out voice commands to keep us over the survivor in order to lower the hoist to pick him up. I was completely vulnerable while at the door, with no fire power to protect me if we should take ground fire from my side.

I was on alert for most of the year, in spite of being grounded for close to three months due to bronchitis. When we got hurt, falling off the 'copter, or whatever, it was demanded that we play through our injury because we were so undermanned, with no replacements to take up the slack. Having been grounded for those three months, I was given extra duties and flights to make up for my absence and ended up with more flying hours than others I flew with.

When President Nixon ordered the bombing of North Vietnam in late '71, I was on the No. 1 helicopter stationed off the N. Vietnam coast. If anyone had been shot down, our 'copter would have gone in for the rescue. I told my best friend the night before one such mission that I was sure I would not be coming back and for him to escort my remains and effects back to the states.

Needless to say, there was a tremendous amount of stress involved in our missions, which is putting it mildly!!

When I returned to the states in '72, I had received the medals of heroes, such as the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 5 Oakleaf Clusters, plus numerous letters of commendation---but I really came back as a VICTIM.

According to Webster, a victim is "a sufferer from any destructive, injurious, or adverse action; or a person (or animal) sacrificed, or regarded as sacrificed".

It seems my troubles had just begun. After I returned, I spent my final year at Hamilton AFB, continuing flying rescue, but the effects of my experiences were beginning to thwart my life to the point where I was unable to cope with life's problems. I was under medical and psychiatric treatment there, and in '75 when I returned to Seattle,



I checked in at the V.A. Hospital's Day Psychiatric program, my condition having been diagnosed as an "insanity neurosis" and/or "schizophrenia". Their treatment resulted in adverse reactions which nearly killed me. After 3 months I left the V.A. program because I felt I was not being treated for what was really happening inside of me. Through Public Assistance I saw a psychiatrist and had my grant extended for 18 months. In 1976 I applied for Social Security Disability and finally a Judge Advocate ruled in my favor and I got those benefits.

In November, 1978, I was back to the mercies of the V.A. when they reevaluated my case at 50%, taking away close to \$600. I appealed and submitted a comprehensive psychiatric evaluation that stated I was not able to work for an indefinite time. The V.A. Rating Board refused to change their rating.

Depressed and deeply moved, in July I went into the Crisis Clinic at Harborview Hospital in Seattle but since I did not have the necessary funds to pay for the outside treatment recommended, I returned to the V.A. where I am seeing a Psychologist on a frequent basis. This time around they treated me with anti-depressants which resulted in very bad reactions, having to go to emergency again. Now they put me on tranquilizers, but they do no relieve the stress and agony inside of me. I cannot go on this way much longer. It makes me sad that there seems to be no adequate treatment available.

When I became totally disabled I did not owe anyone but am now deeply in debt because I spent my own money (after leaving the V.A. program) on doctors, specialists, and treatments to get my health back, which seemed to be helping me. Then they cut me back 50%, and plus that are deducting \$75 a month to pay off a G.I. Bill overpayment. They have ignored my letters and appeals, even through VFW channels. My most recent appeal has been filed and was to be sent to the D.C. office to be heard. Another six months to wait! I would not be in this position had the V.A. properly evaluated my case and assumed responsibility for my condition. I have suffered immeasurably at their hands. They have not "carried the ball" for me....or for countless other veterans. My rights as a veteran, as a U.S. citizen, and more importantly, as a human being have been infringed upon and ignored.

This is the reason I am writing to you now, Mr. Carter. You have spoke out for human rights. You have said that you support the veterans of the Vietnam War. You are our Commander-in-Chief. May I respectfully request that you intervene in my behalf to get my case heard promptly. An investigation is needed to look into the matter of expediting appropriate and special treatment for Vietnam veterans....NOW.

I helped save lives. Now I need saving. I have run out of alternatives and have exhausted all avenues to date. You are my only hope.

If you, as a human being, and as President of this great country, can make this contribution for the few of us who gave everything we had, you would undoubtedly be making a profound contribution to our society.

Respectfully and gratefully yours,

George P. Ojala



30 Sept 90

office on this date

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

My name is George Ojala and a brief history of my claim against the Veterans Administration follows. In doing my own research, I have found that the VA is guilty of FRAUD, WILLFULL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION AND HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, AS WELL AS FOLLOWING ILLEGAL POLICIES IN SETTING SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES (under-rating).

\* \* \* \* \*

I am a Vietnam Veteran and I went to 'Nam (71-72) to save lives. Being in the Air Force, I was assigned to the 37th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron at DaNang, RVN. I was the flight engineer, door gunner and hoist operator on the HH-53-C Helicopter, The biggest and most expensive helicopter in the US inventory. Our knickname was THE JOLLY GREEN GIANTS.

Essentially, what we did on the Jolly Greens is the same as the Coast Guard Rescue helicopter that flies out of McKinneyville. If someone gets into trouble or is injured, we'd go pick them up.

In 'Nam, we were always on alert and would scramble to pick up "downed pilots", handle any rescues the Medivac Helicopters couldn't handle, and cover the planes that flew into North Vietnam.

When Nixon reordered the bombing of North Vietnam in early '72 (the exercise was called Exotic Dancer), I was on the #1 Jolly Green that would have gone into North Vietnam to pick up any people that were shot down. We orbited off the Coast of N. Vietnam for over 8 hours... watching the rockets red glare.

I recieved the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters (total of six) plus many unit citations. I returned to the states in '72 and was stationed at Hamilton AFB in Marin County (across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco) and had the same job. In the next year I flew on missions such as @ when the Rio Dell levee broke - 3 saves @ picked up a brain injured Mountain climber off the top of Mt. Ritter @ Landed on top of El Capitan (3 xs) to help get an injured climber off the face @ picked up injured hiker in the Tahoe region and found lost person in Yosemite.

I came unglued the last year in service and was taken off flying status, hospitalized and relieved of all duties and assigned to the barracks till I got out. By 1977 I had been in the Veterans Administration hospital program for 2 years and was receiving a total service connected rating of 100% due to unemployability (70% for anxiety nerosis).

In 1977, The VA called me in to have a Compensation/Pension Evaluation and as a result of the 15 minute exam, I was cut 50% and had my benefits reduced by two-thirds. I was totally shocked and felt they had somehow made a huge mistake...

To make a long story short... I stressed out and went into the VA Med Center in Seattle and landed on the psychiatric ward for 21 days... During that stay my bank garnished my checking account and I got a pass to get out and they refused to release my disability money. I went out and saw Cosumer Credit and they couldn't help me, since I didn't make enough money to pay everyone. I got out of the Hospital feeling totally betrayed. My appeal with the VA was turned down several times and flipped out and went into the VA Hospital at American lake for 5½ months... The VA refused to upgrade my disability and refused to pay me, even for being in the hospital... saying that I was faking it for the money.

I went into the Va Hospital a year and a half later for two months... Finally, in 1982 The Board of Veteran Appeals changed their minds and payed me for the 9½ months spent in VA hospitals... They however refused



to change my 50% rating... I continued to appeal and in August of '84 I was awarded a 100 % rating for Chronic Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. They refused to give retroactive benefits saying "...that there was no evidence of record that I was 100% service connected before that date".

since the Service Organizations that help process my claims was under-staffed and underfunded, I was forced to do my own legwork. I got my service records and some of my VA Medical Records and have been outraged at what I have found out.

I have found documentation that shows the VA Premeditated my disability reduction and then set up the records to show that it was legal to do so. They have been in violation of their own regulations for over eight years and have no interest in paying me or anyone anything.

I have been in contact with Congressman Doug Bosco's office for close to five years now and he has been unwilling to do anything about changing the status quo. I have sent tens of letters to him and gone into the eureka office as many times, it seems, to no avail. I have even shown one of Bosco's aids the documentation I have talked about here and shown him the regulations...still no response.

I filed formal charges, that I headlined in the first paragraph of this (fraud, discrimination, ect.), two years ago with the Congressman's office and he has yet to act on any aspect of it.

The reason that I am picketing here, in front of Bosco's office, is that I feel that I have absolutely no legal recourse to gain an end to this ordeal. With the military being stationed in the Gulf and preparing for war, I am here to tell you that The UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOESN'T TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN.

For whatever words that are spoken...all we are given is lip service. Although I am just one veteran and my case is about me...I am representing millions of Veterans who are being held hostage by the Blunderings of the Veterans Administration. With the Graham hollings Rutman CRACKER getting smaller...The crumbs the Vet's use to get, is being eaten by the rats.

If you come looking for us to see how we are doing.... you will find that over 130,000 Vietnam vets have killed themselves...Maybe  $\frac{1}{4}$  of all homeless men are Vietnam Vets... Maybe  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the prison population across the contry are vietnam vets. Why? The Veterans Administration knows it can help only a small band of vets with what they use or offer...They don't bother with the rest...It is a perverse way to stay within budget restraints They would rather throw away lives through non-treatment and deceit, then finding ways to heal.



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE  
915 SECOND AVENUE  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98174

OCT 21 1982

Honorable Henry M. Jackson  
United States Senator  
U. S. Courthouse, Room 802  
Seattle, WA 98104

2'  
U.S.S. 44  
OJALA, George P.

Dear Senator Jackson:

On April 1, 1979, the evaluation of Mr. Ojala's service-connected nervous condition was reduced from 100 percent to 50 percent disabling. Mr. Ojala appealed this decision and a subsequent decision denying him a 100 percent evaluation while hospitalized.

On September 1, 1982, the Board of Veterans Appeals granted his claim for a temporary 100 percent evaluation during his periods of hospitalization, but denied an increase in his present 50 percent evaluation.

Award action was taken on October 19, 1982 to authorize Mr. Ojala the 100 percent rate for his periods of hospitalization from September 25, 1979 to November 1, 1979, from November 26, 1979 to June 1, 1980 and from September 22, 1981 to December 1, 1981. He remains evaluated as 50 percent disabled when not hospitalized. He will receive a retroactive payment of \$6480.56 in the near future.

Your interest on behalf of Mr. Ojala is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD F. MURPHY  
Director

29Jun85

Congreemen Gene Chappie  
500 Cohasset Rd  
Suite 30  
Chico, Ca 95926

George Ojala  
Star Route 2  
Box 4652  
Trinity Center, Ca  
96091

RE: VA COMPENSATION BATTLE

Congressman Chappie:

I have been in contact with your Chico office since March of this year, first with Connie and presently with Sally, and I have sent an information packet to your office about "my case".

The present position of the VA is that I did not file a "Notice of Disagreement" within a year of there Sept 1, 1982 Board of Appeals decision, and therefore I am not entitled to retroactive benifets to the original date of my case, which is April 1, 1978.

I talked with Tom Preece, A VA liason officer, and he told me that since the letter never entered my file, I was out of luck. I told him I had witnesses and that changed his position. I would "need" statements to the fact, and if I only had one from my partner, Rosaland Beal, it was likely that they wouldn't accept it due to prejudice.

I have looked through my file and I am enclosing copies of letters I wrote and recieved (from VA) that invalidates there positionality on several counts.

List of inclosures

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Feb 25, 1983-  | Reply from VA on "Notice of Disagreement" filed filed after the Sept 1, 1982 Board of Appeals decision (this date would be the start on year of eligibility)        |
| Feb 28, 1983   | Copy of letter VA sent to the late and Honorable Henry M. Jackson, US senator from Washington State   |
| March 7, 1983  | Form letter from the VA saying they were processing my case.  |
| March 24, 1983 | Letter by me and sent to Senator Henry M. Jackson stating why I would be sending a letter to Mr. Walters in Washington D.C..  |
| April 1 1983   | Letter from VA, turning my claim down- This would be the starting date on a "NEW" appeal and I would have a year in which to file another "Notice of Dis-agreement" |
| April 8, 1983  | This is the letter to Mr. Walters that you already have in your possession.   |
| May 18, 1983   | Letter from the VA in Washington D.C. stating that they had recieved my April 8, 1983 letter.   |
| Sept 21, 1983  | Letter from Swords to Plowshares-con't.   |



Sept 21, 1983 Con't This letter states that Swords is now my Representative and is a Notice of Disagreement. ( Since the VA turned me down on April 1, 1983 and that is the date from which eligibility began, the time span between the two is about seven months)...?

The VA has put the burden of proof on me to show why they should legally pay me my retroactive benefits, and the enclosures shows that I have done so. My question, at this point, is, "Why doesn't the VA have any copies or records of the enclosures? It seems from here, that they (1). either keep faulty records, or (2) that they have removed them from my records with the intention of defrauding me, and I feel that it is the latter. I demand that you initiate a Congressional Investigation into my case as soon as possible, and also to use your office to change the VA as they are responsible to a mandate of Congress and no one else.

The movie "RAMBUS, FIRST BLOOD", has grossed over 100 million dollars in the first five weeks and it is a fictional account of a Vietnam Veteran. My case is the reality of most Disabled Vietnam Veterans and it is a National Secret as well as a National Atrocity.

Thank you in advance for your concern and for putting an end to this nightmare,

George Ojala

President Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

George Ojala  
Rt 1 Box 29 Copenhagen Rd  
Loleta, CA 95551  
(707) 733-5554

RE: VETERAN'S RIGHTS

~~1 MAR 1987~~  
~~sent return 2489194752~~  
~~ADDIE NORWOOD~~

Sir:

It is difficult being a President, and on a personal level you can act only on those things that are brought to your attention.

I am writing you as a Vietnam Veteran, to let you know in advance of an issue that is about to captivate the American People in this coming year and it is about Veterans Rights...

The current movie "PLATOON" has captivated audiences around the country for the realism of how it was like... over there... and will probably win in all categories at the upcoming academy awards.

The question as yet unanswered is what has it been like for Veterans since "NAM???"

I am enclosing my "latest appeal" with the Veterans Administration, that covers a nine year period, and TELLS IT LIKE IT IS (for veterans). I have been lied to, misdiagnosed, mistreated with drugs, cheated out of any meaningful recourse and have been called a liar. All I have been guilty of is being a victim of VIETNAM.

This illegal policy, as described in my appeal, started in the Carter Mondale era and continues to this Day.

As President, I feel you have not taken advantage of the veteran and, with the heavy load of Governing, this area has not been brought to your attention before this.

I have written Senator Cranston and Congressman Bosco to represent me and I ask you to champion me in ending this continuing atrocity against (all) veterans.

I have sent copies of this appeal to the TODAY SHOW and I am in contact with Phil Donahue and Veterans in Action.

In closing, the cover sheet on my appeal says it all. The Shuttle has since been destroyed and has left it's mark on our hearts...the VIETNAM VETERAN, in particular, is next and I wanted you to be ready as you don't need anymore trouble...

That others may live...

George Ojala



President Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, DC

29Apr 86

George Ojala  
Rt1 Box 20 Copenhagen Rd.  
Loleta, Ca 95551

Re: 7 Year VA Appeal

Sir: As Vets, we don't have rights...we have the VA...

When I wrote to you last month, I thought that you could help me in resolving the above case with the Veterans Administration. It has since been pointed out to me that all I have is the VA. There isn't any apparatus setup outside of this closed system for me to go to; to gain legal recourse.

I do thank you for your inquiry on my behalf and I just don't feel it will do any good. The VA is great on lip service and will give your staff an answer as fast as possible. They will "service" you real quick. It is my misfortune that they don't service the VET.

I have enclosed Chairman Eaton's letter that is in reply to yours. I also simplified the packet I sent to you and addressed only a "SINGLE" (1) issue in my case against the Veterans Administration. It also is enclosed.

As to the question of what I would like to happen: IS THAT, after reading this letter and enclosures, you would then call Chairman Eaton and tell him...."Damn it! Stop this nonsense... and pay this man his benefits... RIGHT NOW... Then tell me why you have done this injustice..."

In closing, the press is trying to make you into a Lame Duck and I feel if you grab this issue and run with it, your misfortunes will be set aside and a tide of opinion will change. I originally sent my case to the Honorable Alan Cranston and I am enclosing a copy of a petition sheet I sent to him.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

On a percentile basis, these signatures represent a 95% signature ratio to those people I talked with and who were willing to sign the petition. The predominate feeling expressed was "one of outrage" Of "HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN???" The common denominator was one of total ignorance...

GPOJALA





Senator Barbara Boxer  
112 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

May 19, 1998

Copy

R

**RE: WILLFUL MISCONDUCT, GROSS NEGLIGENCE, AND VIOLATIONS OF MY RIGHTS TO DUE PROCESS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS**

**Certified: P 325 962 169**

Senator Boxer:

I am a 100% service connected Vietnam Veteran and I want to state that I have been in the Appeal Process with the VA, over an illegal reduction in benefits, for 21 years and I am writing you, again, to ask for your help and support.

The illegal action documented in my case started in early 1978. It took almost seven years to get my benefits back and your office was instrumental in my winning my case at that time. I was living in San Rafael in 1983-4 and contacted Dennak Murphy at your "623-5757" number. He worked his butt off and I had a Regional Hearing and the VA gave me back my 100% rating. However, they refused to pay for retroactive benefits and that is the appeal I have kept open for the past 13 years.

I had moved up to Northern California and started to deal with the likes of Doug Bosco, Frank Riggs and Dan Hamburg to try and gain due process. I recall dealing with "Frank" his first time in office and his aid Vee (with her Betty Davis eyes) told me to go sue the VA and hung up on me.

I have been in contact with Al Gore's office and that of the President and I am enclosing a packet that documents the above charges from the White House, with Sue J. Smith being my contact.

Although the President has an inquiry going on at this time, I am writing you now to ask for your support, since the VA is actually mandated by Congress. I want a end to this ordeal and request that your office take charge and champion my case.

I also ask that Congressional Hearings be held into the Veterans Administration and my charges. I have had over twenty years being on the bottom end of the VA and their "bullshit" and I am tired of being treated like one.

In fact, I refer you to the Oct 2, 1992 airing of the Johnny Carson show with General Swartzcoff appearing to promote his new book. The General had a bandaid on his finger and Johnny asked him what happened.

The General said he had a blister on his finger from autographing his book. Johnny then quipped: "Maybe you should go to the VA". The General then mockingly stood up holding his finger and started to run off stage saying something like: "no way". It was a good laugh and that's no joke!!!



Senator Allen Cranston  
45 Polk Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

George Ojala  
Rt 1 Box 20  
Copenhagen Rd.  
Loleta, CA 95551  
(707) 774-5554

RE: Representing me in dealing with the Veterans Administration

Senator Cranston:

I have been in the VA Appeal system for over eight years and I really need your assistance in bringing this travesty of justice to an end. I have talked to "SWIFT TURTLE" about my case and he said to use his name in writing you, in asking you to intercede for me. The bottom line in this case is, THE VA DOESN'T WANT TO PAY ME LEGITIMATE BENEFITS, AND HAS GONE TO NO ENDS TO TURN MY APPEALS DOWN!!!

In the enclosed appeal, I feel I have shown a clear and unmistakable error in the policy the VA has used (for all veterans) to deny me any meaningful recourse and I am sick and tired of it. It has got to end and I am petitioning you to investigate this matter on a Congressional level.

Your usual procedure is to call the VA and they then investigate the case. THIS ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH ANYMORE. My APPEAL clearly shows violations of the intent of the law and it is propagated by the VA on ALL levels. I want you to have an INDEPENDANT AUTHORITY (from the VA) look into this matter and resolve it in my favor.

Enclosed is a petition with over 40 signatures, asking you to do the above. In being disabled (from PTSD), it has taken over four months to collect those signatures and it was real difficult to do so. If you feel you need more signatures to act on this issue... I'll go get them... Just tell me how many you want....

#### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

On a percentile basis, these signatures represent a 95% signature ration to those people I talked with and who were willing to sign the petition. The predominate feeling expressed was "one of outrage". Of "How could this happen???" The common denominator was one of total ignorance...

I sent the enclosed appeal to the VA in San Francisco and the letter I recieved in reply, is stapled to the back of this letter. They want me to send my appeal to the VA Board of Appeals in Washington, DC and the Regional Office KEPT EVERYTHING I SENT THEM...

I am exhausted beyond words and I am unable to COPE with this situation anymore. My family life is falling apart around me and I am breaking up and crying as I write this. I've been "noticed" by the VA to appear for an evaluation in Oct and I feel they will cut my benefits again, regardless of my condition, to comply with the GRAM - RUTMAN CRACKER-LAW.

I PLEAD for you to hear me and help me out of this hell-hole the VA has created for me. I WANT YOU TO REPRESENT ME FROM HERE ON OUT IN MY APPEAL AND THE ENCLOSED INFORMATION IS ALL I HAVE LEFT TO GIVE.

My representative is BOB BROWN, who works for Swords to Plowshares. Their phone number in San Francisco is (415) 552-8805 and he doesn't have a copy of the enclosed information.

Thank you in advance for all your assistance...

*George Ojala*  
George Ojala