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The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

January 12, 2015

Dear Mr. President,

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, which you signed into law on December 19th 2014, makes it clear that service members and civilians killed or wounded in the terror attack at Fort Hood, Texas are eligible for the Purple Heart and the Medal for the Defense of Freedom. Specifically, Section 571 of the NDAA changes the eligibility for these awards to include victims of attacks conducted by individuals who were in communication with foreign terrorist organizations and who were inspired to conduct the attack by a foreign terrorist organization.

Nidal Malik Hasan made it his mission, after sending a series of communications to the radical al-Qaeda linked cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, to kill as many American service members as he could. Tragically, on November 5, 2009, Hasan, inspired by the violent ideology al-Qaeda, killed 13 and wounded 32 others during a shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas.

There is no doubt that Hasan is a traitor and enemy of the United States; he has been sentenced to death for his brutal attack.

But the service members and families have been waiting for over five years for what is owed to them. They should not have to wait any longer. I urge your Administration to quickly implement the provisions of the new law and appropriately honor the fallen and wounded heroes of Fort Hood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Fitzpatrick".

MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress