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THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

JUN 28 1995

The Honorable Herbert Bateman
U.S. House of Representatives, District Office

Fredericksburg, VA 22407

Dear Congressman Bateman:

I am happy to respond to your inquiry regarding your constituent Ruth Coder Fitzgerald, and her brother who died from exposure to Agent Orange.

It is unfortunate that those who so valiantly fight to defend their country during wartime must struggle with the unforeseen consequences of warfare after the battle. I remain committed to doing all I can to ensure that Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange receive fair treatment. Recently, I issued decisions awarding disability compensation benefits to Vietnam veterans based on exposure to Agent Orange, for respiratory cancers, two other forms of cancer (Hodgkins disease and multiple myeloma), and for porphyria cutanea tarda (a liver disorder). I have also worked to extend the special VA health-care benefits of Vietnam veterans who have conditions that might possibly be related to Agent Orange exposure.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall is dedicated to all those who lost their lives as a result of their service during the Vietnam War. It is meant to honor not only those who are listed on the Wall itself, but the spirit of every man and woman who sacrificed so much throughout the war.

However, VA is not charged with any responsibility for supervision or management of the Memorial. Decisions regarding the addition of names are made by the Department of Defense. Please inform Ms. Fitzgerald that she may contact the Air Force Executive Office for Inquiries at the Headquarters Air Force Manpower and Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, TX 71850, for more information.



Putting Veterans First