

16 June 1970

Commander William West

Swartz Creek, Michigan 48473

Dear Sir:

I have been detailed as military counsel for Corporal Kenneth Schiel. Corporal Schiel is charged with premeditated murder in the alleged "My Lai Massacre" in the Republic of South Vietnam in March 1968.

I am requesting assistance from your organization in my efforts to defend Corporal Schiel. Because of the complex and gravely important nature of this case, I have found it necessary to use additional services such as independent stenographers and certain investigative techniques, the cost of which the Army cannot assume. Also, I have secured the services of Mr. Edward J. Atkins, an experienced trial lawyer in military courts, as Ken's civilian counsel. Mr. Atkins lives in Miami, Florida and therefore has to commute back and forth for hearings. Even though Mr. Atkins has agreed to give Ken his services free of charge, I would like to help Mr. Atkins defray some portion of his personal expenses.

I am appealing to you for help since Ken's home is Swartz Creek. I know how well thought of Ken is and therefore hope that a defense fund can be started in that area. I have been in contact with Father James B. Hempstead, , Swartz Creek, who has agreed to help in whatever way he can. If you feel that such a fund can be started, please call me for any assistance you need in this effort.

Publicity is one thing that can be as harmful as helpful. Therefore, I would appreciate that any publicity needed in your efforts be confined to merely a request for funds to help defray these costs which we, as Ken's lawyers, feel to be necessary beyond the normal assistance provided by the Army.

Any assistance that your organization can give in this request will be greatly appreciated by everyone working in the defense of Ken Schiel.

JAMES W. LANE
CPT, JAGC
Defense Counsel