

December 10, 1987

Ms. Joyce Elliott
Small Business Administration
400 N. 8th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23240

Re: SBA Veterans' Advocate Award

Dear Ms. Elliott:

Mr. Guy Cooter requested that I provide you a list of my accomplishments and send you my resume. This is for your consideration of me for an award from the SBA.

The son of a Federal District Court judge, I was born in Washington, D.C. on May 14, 1942.

I went to public schools in Washington and completed my secondary education from the Washington Cathedral's St. Albans School for Boys and I graduated in June, 1965 from the University of North Carolina with an AB degree in Economics. I enrolled in The George Washington University School of Law. I finished my first year in the upper 15% of the class. My legal study was interrupted in 1966 when I was drafted into the United States Army. After training, I was awarded a direct commission as a Lieutenant in the Army Medical Service Corps and I later volunteered for duty in Vietnam. I served as a medical clearing platoon leader with D Company, 4th Medical Battalion, 3rd Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division. I earned a Combat Medical Badge and was awarded a Bronze Star medal. I left the Army a Captain having served as a company commander of a medical ambulance company after returning from Vietnam.

I did not return to finish my law education in 1969 when I was honorably discharged from the Army, but went to work for a major oil company, Cities Service. In 1972, I left them and started my own small business of petroleum distribution in rural Orange County, Virginia. I was active in the Jaycees and Episcopal church there. I sold my business in the Summer of 1977 and resumed my study of law.

I graduated with a Juris Doctorate degree from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, Virginia in August, 1979, having completed the three year program in two years. I attended law school on my remaining G.I. Bill educational entitlements. I went to work for the Commonwealth of Virginia allocating petroleum supplies during the Energy Crisis of 1979-80.

I opened my own law practice in association with Boone & Warren, Richmond, Virginia, in April, 1981 and went solo in 1984.

Today, I am with the Richmond, Virginia firm of Hutchens & Hutchens as a senior trial attorney.

In addition to practicing law, I am President of Central Virginia Chapter #78, Vietnam Veterans of America. Our chapter has 87 members and meets monthly at the Virginia War Memorial. I am also a member of V.F.W. Post 6364, Richmond, Virginia. I provide free legal service to the local VVA Chapter, VVA Virginia State Council of 10 VVA chapters in Virginia, and the Virginia Veterans Coalition, Inc. Recently, I gave a speech to the local chapter of the Former Prisoners of War at McGuire VA Hospital and showed a film on Vietnam POWs, Hanoi Hilton.

I helped form TET'68, Inc, a nonprofit veterans group and serve as its president. They were formed to host a reunion to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the 1968 Tet Lunar New Year Counteroffensive in Vietnam. We were awarded tax-free 501(c)(19) status by the IRS with assistance from our Congressman, Thomas Bliley. We have General William C. Westmoreland, U.S. Army Retired, coming to Richmond, Virginia the weekend of February 5-7, 1988. I appeared before the City Council of Richmond, Virginia and the finance committee of the Richmond School Board to gain the use of the Arthur Ashe Center for the planned event.

Since 1982, I have been a registered lobbyist for the State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America. We have had legislation enacted adding special recognition to the names on the Virginia War Memorial of 61 Virginians missing in action in Southeast Asia and worked to have the 2nd Saturday in November be declared Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication and Recognition Day in Virginia. I have actively testified before Legislative Committees on issues concerning veterans such as a State cemetery and domiciliary care unit and Agent Orange. I travelled to Hampton on a recent Friday night with two other veterans and testified before an Agent Orange Committee.

My interest in veterans extends to helping them and have generally referred at least fifty annually to the Virginia Division of War Veterans Claims office here in Richmond and in Petersburg and Roanoke, Virginia.

There are over 25,000 Vietnamese living in the Richmond, Virginia area. Recently, I have assisted three in either starting their own small business or in buying someone's. One owned a small restaurant and sold it buying out a small grocery store. The other operates a wholesale grocery business. The third wanted to be able to accept USDA Food Stamps. I went with him to get the right permit issued. Additionally, I introduced a young man, Paul, to local police bureaus so that he can serve as a translator should local Vietnamese need to report crime to the police or be questioned by police about a matter.

I have appeared on t.v. many times on veterans issues. I

was part of a group of veterans who answered question on a live talk show which has listeners call in to ask questions. I am well known as a Vietnam Veteran in the Richmond, Virginia area and was featured on t.v. this year as part of Veterans Day activities.

I believe in giving back something to those who have assisted you. For four years now, I have given a scholarship to an Honorably Discharged veteran attending the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, Virginia. It makes me feel good and proud to be a veteran.

Sincerely yours,

William E. Kirkland

WEK/dms