

Willard Stafford

Mike Law

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9 February 1998

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your response.

I understand that Past President means nothing unless they are in some other leadership position. The reason I sent letters to each of you was, hopefully, a call from you might carry more weight with John. I have sent John two e-mail letters asking him to resign. To date I have not heard a word. I sent an e-mail letter to Mike Hurley in addition to the letter like the one you got from me. The Executive Council has also received e-mail letters asking for John's resignation. To date, and it has been over three weeks, I have heard nothing. I had expected VHPA's leadership to be more responsive. I am prepared for them to tell me to go jump in the lake or that they will look into the matter, but as I said, so far, nothing. That I had not expected from the kind of people who flew helicopters during the war.

I am trying every avenue available to get John to resign prior to this year's reunion. I do not want to try and force his resignation at the reunion business meeting or any other public forum for that matter. I think we have much better things to do in our business meeting than to take up the Chaplain issue. I am especially interested in the scholarship initiative even though my children have long since graduated from college. What a wonderful legacy to leave to future generations!

My take on VHPA is that it is, and should remain, a social organization where we meet and have some good times together. I am not against religion. My family has a solid, healthy, and active religious life so this is not the devil at work against John Plummer. The Trang Bang lie continues to surface and that hurts us all. Just this weekend, while searching the computer for helicopter related subjects I ran across Plummer again. The article said that John sent the aircraft that bombed the village of Trang Bang and in another paragraph, that the planes were United States aircraft. Those are lies. We know that John had a very, very minor role in the bombing of Trang Bang and that the entire operation was Vietnamese (Vietnamese ground forces fighting NVA and the aircraft that bombed Trang Bang were VNAF and under VNAF and ARVN control). John, however, continues to use the story and the embellishment of his part for a ministry of forgiveness. That dishonesty and using the Chaplain@vhpao.org e-mail to continue the lie is my only problem with John serving as VHPA's Chaplain. Our organization deserves a man of honesty and integrity. So, what I'm saying is I don't really want to do away with the Chaplain position but I certainly want John out of it. I also am not saying John should not be in VHPA. He has as much right as any other helicopter pilot to be a member and I would fight to make sure that right is never taken away.

Again Mike, thank you for responding. See you in Ft. Worth.

Sincerely,



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