

The American Legion



For God and Country

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N.W. ★ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-2847 ★

June 15, 1992

A. O. G. G. deshm

Mr. Richard Mullinax

Dear Mr. Mullinax:

This is in response to your May 4, 1992 letter addressed to The American Legion in Indianapolis.

The article entitled "Firebase Dioxin," published in the February issue of The American Legion Magazine, has resulted in many inquiries to the Magazine staff.

With respect to The American Legion lawsuit, filed on August 2, 1990, we appreciate your interest in joining the suit but must advise you that the individual plaintiffs were selected prior to the date of filing. The purpose in filing The American Legion lawsuit is to require the U.S. Government to conduct a major epidemiological study of the U.S. ground troops that served in Vietnam. Just recently, we have had movement from the Court in regard to our lawsuit and expect to obtain rulings on several motions that have been filed.

We are forwarding a copy of your letter to Mr. Rob Hager as you requested.

With respect to access to medical records, you should retain these important documents for later evaluation, in the event that your mother, Verna Mullinax, should decide to file a claim for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Your mother may wish to seek assistance in filing a claim with the VA for DIC through any American Legion Post Service Officer, or other service officers who are qualified to properly advise applicants on VA compensation.

In addition, we would recommend that your mother file a claim under the Agent Orange Veterans Payment Program. Copy

of the Manual for assisting Vietnam veterans and their families is enclosed.

We will provide a copy of your letter to The American Legion science panel for their information and review. Since you mentioned that you planned to have an autopsy performed on your father, we would be interested in learning about the results. Our staff physician can provide us with an opinion, in the event you wish to share the report with us.

Please feel free to contact this office if we can be of further assistance. We understand your bereavement and will continue to press the issue with the Federal government to see that our veterans receive the proper care--that they are compensated for the many cancers and other illnesses caused by exposure to Agent Orange and will assist family members of any deceased Vietnam veteran where we can.

Sincerely yours,



RICHARD S. CHRISTIAN, Deputy Director
for Research and Technology Assessment
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Attachment

cc: American Legion Science Panel
Robert Hager, Esq.