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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

P.02

May 04, 1992

Richard Mullinax

The American Legion

Dear Sir,

I am in dire need of your assistance. My father died on January 10, 1992 from "Sudden Death" according to the State Medical Examiners Office for North Carolina. My father was a 21 year veteran of the United States Air Force. During his period of active duty, he was a participant in Operation Ranch Hand in Vietnam. As I am sure you are probably aware, Operation Ranch Hand was the code name for the Herbicidal Warfare operation in Vietnam. As such, my father had direct exposure to Agent Orange while performing his duties as a flight engineer during 1969 thru 1970 and was a participant in the Air Force Health Study. Upon his death, he was survived by my mother, Verna Mullinax, my sister and her husband, a 3 year old granddaughter, a daughter-in-law, his mother, and lastly, me. Needless to say, his death was a shock to all of us including his friends and fellow veterans.

I am writing you because of an article printed in your magazine dated February 1992, titled "Firebase Dioxin." In this article, reference is made to a lawsuit filed by The American Legion and the Vietnam Veterans of America against the federal government in 1990. We, my mother and I, would like to join in this suit if it would be appropriate. Additionally, could you forward a copy of this letter to attorney Bob Hager, who was also mentioned in your article as assisting Shirley Ivy of Texas? No address was listed for him in your article.

Furthermore, we will grant the American Legion and the Vietnam Veterans of America access to all medical records deemed necessary. His records include physicals conducted for the Air Force Health Study into the effects of Dioxin, a letter stating his Dioxin level was the third highest level found in his group (214 parts per trillion versus 49 parts per trillion average for all study participants versus 10 parts per trillion for industrial exposures), and numerous other documentations that may assist you and/or attorney Bob Hager. If you desire to contact me directly, my home phone is

In closing, I would like to add that my mother and I, at our own personal expense, recently had my fathers remains disinterred so that an autopsy could be performed by the Chief Medical Examiners Office as one was not performed at his death. His remains have been returned to his final resting place and we are waiting the results of the autopsy. We had also contacted an

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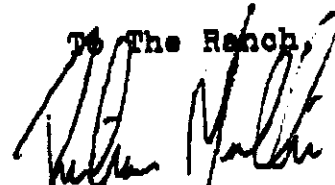
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attorney in North Carolina to seek legal counseling in this matter, and she felt there was nothing to be done due to the lawsuit settlement made in the 1980's. She felt my mother would only gain a few thousand dollars due to this settlement. Needless to say, this does not seem like just compensation for the early death of my father. Once again, we will gladly send your or attorney Bob Hager any records of my fathers that may help you in your attempts to seek justice in this matter for Vietnam Veterans.

In closing, as the men of my fathers unit would say,

To The Ranch,



Richard Mullinax