Senator Insert Name Here

Insert Address Here
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Last Name:

I am writing to you asking that you sponsor Senate Bill, S-2738, *Dust Off Crews of the Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal Act.*This bill directs the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate to make arrangements for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the Dust Off crews of the Vietnam War in recognition of their heroic military service.

As you may already know, Dust Off and Medevac crews comprised **1/10th of 1%** of the fighting forces with boots on the ground in Vietnam.  There were approximately 1400 officers and warrant officers along with their enlisted medics and crew chiefs flew Army Aeromedical Evacuation Helicopters in Vietnam under the callsign of Dustoff or Medevac.  There were 91 pilots killed and 380 wounded while enlisted crew members experienced 123 killed and 545 wounded, for a **loss ratio of 33%** .

These crews flew **496,573** **missions** from 1962 to 1973, and, evacuated over **900,000** multi-national **casualties** to highly skilled medical facilities. The number of missions and combat hours flown combined with the number patients evacuated are achievements that a few select, highly skilled and valorous individuals achieved. Numbers of this magnitude will never again be recorded in the annals of history.

The heroism, valor and tenacity displayed by these young air crews provided a gift of life that no one considers or even thinks about. For each person saved by a medical evacuation air crew, whether it be a man, woman or a child, those individuals went on to enjoy their life beyond the strains of war. But the gift of all gifts is that they also have breathed life into multiple generations of people throughout the world that would otherwise not be here today. This is true only because young men voluntarily put their lives on the line every-day to save another human being.

National recognition of the valor and contributions of these air crews will fill a void for many who were shunned by their nation when they returned home and for those who never received any awards or acknowledgment for their valorous achievements.

Cordially,

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