

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 8, 2011

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6050

The Honorable John McCain  
Ranking Member  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6050

The Honorable Buck McKeon  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0001

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Chairman Levin, Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member McCain, and Ranking Member Smith:

We write to ask that, during the House-Senate conference on the FY12 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the conference committee adopt the House-passed language in Sec. 662 of H.R. 1540 regarding the victims of the attack at Fort Hood, TX on November 5, 2009, and include language that would provide the same treatment for members of the Armed Forces who were killed or wounded in the attack at the military recruiting station in Little Rock, Arkansas, on June 1, 2009.

Sec. 662 of H.R. 1540 requires that members of the Armed Forces who were killed or injured in the attack on Fort Hood, TX be deemed as killed or wounded in a combat zone. It also requires that civilian employees of the U.S. Department of Defense be deemed to have been killed or wounded while serving with the Armed Forces in a contingency operation and in a terrorist attack.

Rep. Griffin introduced legislation, H.R. 2683, the Honoring Ezeagwula and Long Act on July 28, 2011, to honor two brave young members of our Armed Forces who were targeted by a self-confessed terrorist because they were U.S. soldiers. This bill would require that these servicemembers be treated the same as members of the Armed Forces who have been killed or wounded in a combat zone as a result of enemy fire. This includes making them eligible to receive the Purple Heart. These two men were targeted specifically because they were wearing the uniform of the U.S. Army and should be provided the same benefits and honors of those members of the Armed Forces who have been killed or wounded in a designated combat zone or as a result of an international terrorist attack.

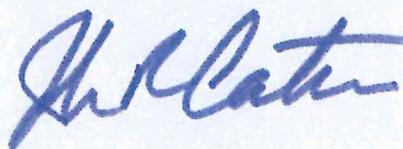
Those killed and wounded in the attack at Fort Hood should also receive the same benefits as their deployed counterparts who are wounded or killed. The provision that we support would correct this inequity and provide the same treatment, benefits, and honors to the Fort Hood casualties as to those Americans who have been killed or wounded in a combat zone. Furthermore, this action would follow the historic precedent set by the federal government when it awarded casualties of the September 11 terrorist attacks who were servicemembers with the Purple Heart medal, and the individuals who were DoD civilian employees with the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom. This important precedent should be followed for both the Fort Hood and Little Rock casualties.

Therefore, we urge the conference committee to include the House-passed provision in the final version of the NDAA and to add language regarding the two Little Rock casualties in this provision as well.

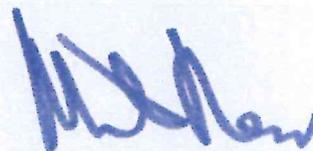
Sincerely,



Tim Griffin  
Member of Congress



John Carter  
Member of Congress



Mike Ross  
Member of Congress