



VETERANS MEMORIAL MUSEUM

“Home of the Legion of Valor”

**2425 Fresno Street
Fresno, California 93721
Phone (559) 498-0510
Fax (559) 498-3773**

22, January 2025

A sincere plea to forward this request to Vice President Vance.

Vice President JD Vance,

America has been re-born and with you and President Trump taking the helm my future hopes for my grandchildren have been restored. Thank you from the depths of my soul.

Now to the purpose of this letter: I am seeking your assistance to correct a 1970 political injustice against an elderly veteran of the Vietnam war, Phillip J. Conran.

Phil was an Air Force Major flying special operation helicopters during the Vietnam war and was nominated for the Medal of Honor (MoH) for his heroic action in Laos on October 6, 1969. Unfortunately, President Nixon denied our combat forces were in Laos or Cambodia so his and five army MoH recommendations were rejected. Since then all five army submittals have been upgraded with the last one being in 2022. The Air Force refused to recommend Phil's being upgraded on three different formal requests since 2014 even though they admitted his 1969 MoH recommendation paperwork was destroyed sometime before 2013.

Phil was involved in a CIA mission where the lead helicopter, carrying 25 Lao soldiers, was shot down. He, after the designated rescue pilot refused to try to pick up the downed crew stating “the area was too dangerous,” tried himself with his unarmed helicopter only to be shot down. Then, once on the ground, he took command even though he was not the senior ranking officer and set up a defensive perimeter and worked with airborne assets to help defend the area for over six hours until a rescue was successful after debilitating gas was used to neutralize the superior NVA enemy forces. All this information, including eyewitness statements, is well documented and can be viewed on www.philipconran.com but the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records refuses to recommend an upgrade.

Senators, Congressmen, CIA, military, civilians, and relatives have submitted positive recommendations since we all state his heroic actions surpass the criteria for the Air Force Medal of Honor. Many things in politics are distasteful but the denying of a real American Hero

over the fact that a boundary line on a map was used to deny the recommendation is truly an injustice. I know you, as a veteran, would agree someone in authority should pull the trigger... and get this done. I pray this matter can be resolved soon, as Colonel Conran is approaching 88 years old and it would be a black mark on the government to wait until it be given posthumously.

I am confident you have the wherewithall to have someone research the records and get this request to the President.

With all respect and warmest regards,

Michael Harris, CEO/Director
Legion of Valor Museum, Fresno California
(cell # 559 706-0503)