

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2006

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We were pleased to learn that the Army's Criminal Investigation Command (CID) has opened an investigation into the death of Corporal Patrick Tillman. We understand that CID will investigate possible criminal negligence in Corporal Tillman's death. Meanwhile, the Department of Defense Inspector General, in response to Tillman family and Congressional requests, is investigating allegations that Army officials covered up the true cause of Corporal Tillman's death. We trust that these investigations will be exhaustive and we look forward to reviewing their results.

On April 22, 2004, Army Specialist Patrick Tillman was killed in Afghanistan. Original reports suggested that Tillman was killed while heroically scaling a ridge to return enemy fire. The Army awarded Tillman the Silver Star for his actions. Weeks later, Tillman's family was notified that Corporal Tillman's death was a "probably" fratricide, a conclusion confirmed in a 2005 report by Brigadier General Gary Jones. In fact, Brigadier General Jones's report acknowledges what Tillman's fellow soldiers and higher ranking officials knew almost immediately: Corporal Tillman was killed by friendly fire.

Corporal Tillman's loved ones deserve a full and accurate accounting of his death and our nation deserves an explanation for the misleading statements that were made by Army officials. The Army, an institution that prides itself on honor and integrity, should have a shared interest in determining whether Army officials covered up the true facts regarding Corporal Tillman's death.

We thank you for your personal attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



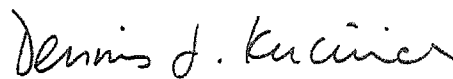
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