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United States Senate

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary of Defense Austin,

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I'm writing to request that the Department of Defense urgently consider U.S. Army Retired Colonel Paris Davis for the Congressional Medal of Honor. In January 2021, Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher C. Miller ordered an expedited review of this lost nomination by March 2021.

On June 18, 1965, then-Captain Davis commanded a Special Forces team in Vietnam that suffered heavy casualties during a pre-dawn raid on an enemy camp. After enduring 18 hours of ceaseless attacks by a numerically superior enemy, Captain Davis demonstrated heroic courage by rescuing three of his team members who had fallen during battle, despite being wounded himself.

Captain Davis's superiors immediately nominated him for the military's highest award, but the U.S. Army lost his nomination paperwork. As a result, his heroic actions have sadly been overlooked.

This tragedy must be remedied. Colonel Davis's prudent and valiant actions are a testament to his heroic character and abilities as a commander in the U.S. Army. He ought to be officially recognized so his example can inspire future generations of leaders and citizens.

I urge you to consider awarding the Medal of Honor to Colonel Davis with all reasonable speed. It's long past time that the U.S. Army recognize Colonel Davis's courage and dedication to our nation.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to our nation's security.

Sincerely,



TOM COTTON
United States Senate