

United States Senate

July 24, 2018

Office of the Chief, Army Legislative Liaison
Headquarters Department of the Army
1600 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-1600

Major General Winksi,

I received the enclosed letter from a constituent requesting assistance with correcting administrative language preventing the memorialization of a loved one lost during the Vietnam War. Donna Ellis, daughter of the late U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Melvin Lewis Hatt of Lansing, Michigan, has brought to my attention the great difficulty she and her family have encountered while attempting to effect SSG Hatt's memorialization.

On March 16, 1962, SSG Hatt, was a passenger aboard Flying Tiger Line Flight 739/14 bound for Saigon, Vietnam. Originating from Anderson Air Force Base in Guam, the flight never reached its intended destination. After an exhaustive search failed to locate any survivors or recover any remains, SSG Hatt, along with 92 Army Ranger comrades and 11 crew members were presumed lost.

In the aftermath, a Department of Defense 'Statement of Casualty' assigned a "non-battle" status to SSG Hatt and the others aboard the flight. This assignment appears to be preventing these patriots from being memorialized at some of our nation's sacred war memorials.

I would like the Army to give this issue the utmost attention it deserves.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

GCP/bm

Enclosure

-P