

THE COLLINGS FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 248, 137 Barton Road, Stow, MA 01775



The Honorable Ike Skelton
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The following group of "Congressional Medal of Honor" veterans is seeking your support of introduced language into legislation by Rep. Tsongas that would allow the transfer of an F-105 through Congressional Deed of Gift to the Collings Foundation Vietnam Memorial Flight. This initiative compliments the Medal of Honor Foundation's efforts in promoting American values and qualities of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism through increased awareness.

Over the past two decades, the Collings Foundation has worked to honor veterans and educate younger generations about the sacrifices made during the Second World War through its "Wings of Freedom Tour". The tour represents a traveling living history museum visiting 105 locations annually including Missouri. In the late 1990s the Collings Foundation expanded its mission to honor the Vietnam Veterans, especially the 58,000 servicemen who gave their lives, and to educate the public about the sacrifice of these brave individuals. Accordingly, in 1998 the Collings Foundation was extremely proud and honored when the United States Congress transferred an F-4 to the Foundation via Conditional Deed of Gift as a part of the Vietnam Memorial Flight, subsequently the A-4 was added in 2001 through Defense Authorization Bill.

We the undersigned (Medal of Honor recipients), respectfully request that you sponsor legislation that will transfer an F-105G, plus surplus parts to the Collings Foundation, a non-profit 501 C (3), who will restore the F-105 to flying condition. All of this shall be accomplished at zero cost to the United States Government.

Very Respectfully,

Leo Tharsness USAF

John N Baker Jr.
Ronald E Gasser
Walter Kawarumi
[Signature]

Joe Jackson USAF
Bruce Crandall

[Signature]
[Signature]
Ray J Ga West
Hiroshi H. Myamura
Charles Murray