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Dear Lt. General Mattis:

I am writing to inform you that I am recommending clemency in the case of Sgt. Lawrence Hutchins who was found guilty of murder and related charges at his Court Martial last week and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

While I understand that under the Uniform Code of Military Justice there is a formal process which includes preparation of the trial record before you as Convening Authority determine whether to grant clemency or take action on the findings of the Court Martial and sentence, I am writing at this time to respectfully request a meeting with you whenever you deem it appropriate to discuss the grounds for clemency.

As you may know, I am not new to this case and have followed it closely from the beginning when it was first brought to my attention by the Military Combat Defense Fund, a group of mostly Marine Vietnam Veterans in the Boston area. Since that time, I have tried to provide support to Sgt. Hutchins and his family as well as the attorneys representing him. As a former District Attorney of over 20 years experience, I thought it was important that I have someone in attendance at the Court Martial and I requested my counsel, John Kivlan, a former Marine and Homicide Prosecutor to attend the Court Martial from beginning to end. Mr. Kivlan will submit a formal written recommendation for clemency to you, on behalf of Sgt. Hutchins through his attorney, Lt. Col. Smith.

My interest in this case is now and has always been based on my strong belief that Sgt. Hutchins and his co-defendants deserve every benefit of the doubt. Sgt. Hutchins deserves a fair and just disposition of his case consistent with the dispositions of the cases of his co-defendants and others in the chain of command in this and similar cases.

I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience as to when you think it would be appropriate for us to meet.

Sincerely,



William D. Delahunt

Lt. General James N. Mattis
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