

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 16, 2014

The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Secretary McHugh:

As the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has passed the U.S. House and Senate, and is expected to be signed into law by the President, we urge you to act swiftly in awarding the Purple Heart to the victims of the June 2009 shooting at the Little Rock recruiting center - Privates William Long and Quinton Ezeagwula. As you are aware, Section 571 of the NDAA, specifies additional criteria for awarding the Purple Heart medal to include members of the Armed Forces killed or wounded in attacks by foreign terrorist organizations (FTO) or by individuals or entities inspired or motivated by a FTO.

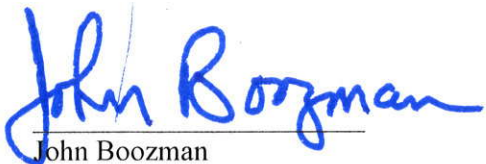
In 2011, Abdulhakim Muhammad pled guilty to charges of capital murder and attempted capital murder for the shooting at a Little Rock military recruiting station. Throughout his trial, Muhammad repeatedly admitted that he was a soldier in the cause of war—or jihad—against the United States and that he targeted Privates William Andrew Long and Quinton Ezeagwula because they wore the uniform of the U.S. Army. Additionally, in 2007, Muhammad traveled to Yemen where, as he admitted, he consorted with known members of Al Qaeda including discussing attacks on American military personnel.

Section 571 of the FY 2015 NDAA clarifies that an attack carried out by an individual will be considered an attack by a FTO if the individual or entity was in communication with a FTO before the attack, and if the attack was inspired or motivated by a FTO. It is clear that given the actions and statements by Abdulhakim Muhammad before and after the attack in Little Rock that he communicated with and was motivated by a FTO.

Given that it has been more than 5 years since this attack, it is unacceptable that this medal has not been awarded to Private Quinton Ezeagwula and to the family of Private William Andrew Long. We have fought to ensure that these men are honored with the Purple Heart that they have earned and deserve for their service and sacrifice. Under the newly established criteria, there is no longer any excuse to refuse these men the Purple Heart.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

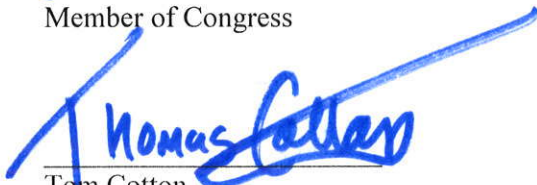
Sincerely,



John Boozman
Member of Congress



Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



Tom Cotton
Member of Congress