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September 23, 2020

U.S. Army Human Resources Command
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Department 480
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

To Whom This Might Concern:

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Mr. Ronald J. Dolecki, regarding his eligibility for the award of a retroactive POW Medal.

Mr. Dolecki is a former U.S. Army E-5, 64th Engineer Battalion, Special Foreign Activity. In his correspondence to me (copy attached), Mr. Dolecki states that in 1965, while on active duty, he was captured in East Africa at gunpoint by members of the Eritrean Liberation Army (ELF). He was taken to Sudan and escaped two weeks later. Mr. Dolecki has received no recognition for his role as a captive of foreign soldiers.

It is my understanding that POW Medals have been retroactively awarded to the crew of the USS Pueblo seized by North Korea in 1968 and to military personnel seized during the siege of the U.S. Embassy in Iran in 1979. I respectfully request that Mr. Dolecki's file be reviewed to determine whether he is eligible for the award of the POW Medal.

I would appreciate your reviewing the attached documentation and advising me of your findings. Please direct correspondence to me at the following address:

111 Rockville Pike, Suite 960
Rockville, MD 20850
Fax: 301-545-1512

If you require additional information, please contact Mr. Jeff Samuels of my staff at jeff_samuels@vanhollen.senate.gov or at 301-545-1500.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
U.S. Senator

CVH/js

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