



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

MAR 31 2010

The Honorable Jason Altmire
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Altmire:

I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates to your October 8, 2009 letter concerning your request to award the Medal of Honor to Specialist Four Leslie H. Sabo, Jr. I am pleased to inform you that, after giving this request careful, personal consideration, I have recommended that Specialist Four Sabo be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Title 10, United States Code, Section 1130, Consideration of Proposals for Decorations Not Previously Submitted in a Timely Fashion: Procedures for Review, directs that, upon request of a Member of Congress, the Secretary of the Army shall review a proposal for the award or presentation of a decoration (or the upgrading of a decoration) that is not otherwise authorized to be presented or awarded due to time limitations established by law or policy. Based upon such a review, the Secretary of the Army shall make a determination as to the merits of approving the award or presentation of the decoration.

Based on the aforementioned legislation, the Army recently reviewed the proposal to award the Medal of Honor to Specialist Four Sabo. In accordance with our normal procedures, the Army Decorations Board reviewed the case and forwarded its recommendation to the Senior Army Decorations Board, who, in turn, considered the action and submitted it to me with its recommendation. I concurred with the Boards' recommendation to award the Medal of Honor to Specialist Four Sabo.

As you know, the President of the United States is the final approval authority for the Medal of Honor and my recommendation does not constitute a final decision. Prior to final approval and presentation, this notification should be considered For Official Use Only.

This brave Soldier clearly distinguished himself through his courageous actions. The Army and our nation are forever grateful for his heroic service. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of this brave American.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. McHugh", is written over a printed name. The signature is stylized and cursive.

John M. McHugh