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June 29, 2022

The Honorable Darrell Issa
United States House of Representatives
2300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Issa:

On behalf of the nearly two million members of The American Legion, I am pleased to express support for H.R.5909, which would authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Captain E. Royce Williams, USN (Ret.) for acts of valor during the Korean War.

E. Royce Williams served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. On November 18, 1952, Lt. Williams flew an F9F-5 Panther on a four-plane Combat Air Patrol (CAP) five miles from the Korea-Russian Border. As the CAP broke into the clear at 12,000 feet, Lt. Williams spotted seven superior Russian MiG-15s. In a 30–40-minute dog fight, Lt. Williams used all his ammo to down four of the MiG-15s and suffered a 37 mm hit in his right wing stub, which caused a total loss of his plane's rudder and flaps. After returning to safety, his aircraft examination found 263 holes. Although this engagement is unmatched in the Korean War, Vietnam War, or since, due to political concerns in Washington, Lt. Williams was ordered not to tell anyone about the dogfight and a top-secret lid on the engagement was imposed for 50 years. Lt. William's singular courage above and beyond the call of duty against overwhelming odds reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

In accordance with American Legion Resolution No. 70: *Medal of Honor for E. Royce Williams*, passed by our National Security Committee in meetings held August 22-24, 2017, which urges Congress to consider Captain E Royce Williams USN (Ret.) to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his act of bravery given in service to our country, we strongly support this bill. We applaud your leadership in ensuring this hero receives the recognition he deserves before departing on his final flight.

Sincerely,

Chanin Nuntavong
Executive Director
Government Affairs