

TIM JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ABERDEEN OFFICE: (605) 226-3440
PO BOX 1554, ABERDEEN, SD 57402

SIOUX FALLS OFFICE: (605) 332-8896
PO BOX 1424, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57101

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
136 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104
(202) 224-5842

TDD: (202) 224-8279

TOLL FREE
1-800-537-0025

WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

July 13, 2005

The Honorable Francis J. Harvey
Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Secretary Harvey:

I am writing in regard to a pending recommendation to award a Medal of Honor to Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble.

I first contacted your predecessor, Secretary White, regarding this case on June 7, 2002. Master Sergeant Keeble was a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe and served in both World War II and the Korean War. Members of his company recommended him for the Medal of Honor for acts of bravery during a battle near Kumsong, North Korea, in October 1951. While the statutory time limit for consideration of the Medal of Honor has passed, I had provided the Army with evidence that the original recommendation had been lost and not given proper consideration. Under these circumstances, the law allows the Secretary of the Army to waive the statutory time limits and consider the recommendation.

The last correspondence I received from the Army was dated September 19, 2002 and indicated the recommendation had been reviewed by the Army Decorations Board and was now awaiting a decision by the Senior Army Decorations Board. It is my understanding this has been completed and that the recommendation is now awaiting a final review by your office.

I am grateful for the careful consideration of this matter and understand the importance of a case involving the Medal of Honor. However, I would appreciate an update on the status of this case, including a timeframe for the final decision. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson
United States Senate