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## United States Senate

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June 1, 2007

The Honorable Robert M. Gates  
Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing in regard to the recommendation pending in your office to award Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble the Medal of Honor. This is a case I have been working on for five years, but I am hopeful we are nearing the point where a final decision will be made on this matter.

Master Sergeant Keeble was a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe and was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. Based on the loss of the original recommendation for a Medal of Honor for Master Sergeant Keeble's actions in Korea in October 1951, I started working with the Army in 2002 to have Master Sergeant Keeble's case reviewed. After staying in close contact with the Army throughout this process, I was very pleased to receive a letter dated May 31, 2006 from then Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey stating he was recommending to the Secretary of Defense that Master Sergeant Keeble be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

In the year since I received this letter, I was informed by a member of your staff that legislation waiving the statute of limitations on applicable time limits for awarding the Medal of Honor was necessary for the recommendation to move forward. I worked closely in recent weeks with Senator Byron Dorgan to include such a waiver in the recently passed H.R.2206, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act.

Now that this legislation has been signed into law, it is my hope that both you and the President can move forward on Master Sergeant Keeble's case as expeditiously as possible. I know that Master Sergeant Keeble's family, the members of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, and all the people of South Dakota are anxious to see Master Sergeant Keeble get the recognition he deserves, but never sought.

I would appreciate an update from you on this case now that the time limitation waiver has been approved by Congress. If I can provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tim Johnson  
United States Senate