

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 11<sup>th</sup> Year of our Lord 2019

Army Review Board Agency  
251 18th Street South  
Arlington, Virginia 22202-4508

Re: First Sergeant John E. Hatley

The undersigned Members of Congress respectfully request that the Board strongly consider the release of First Sergeant John E. Hatley from confinement, returning him to life as a contributing member of society.

Information has been brought to our attention that raises serious questions about the integrity of First Sergeant Hatley's arrest and conviction. This information is deeply concerning given the paucity of evidence in the original conviction.

Court filings state that First Sergeant Hatley's unit was patrolling the Al-Rashid district in Baghdad when it came under small arms fire. As the unit rushed to enter a suspect nearby building, which was later found to contain small arms and explosives, four Shi'ite fighters associated with the Mahdi Army were caught fleeing and placed into custody. The four detainees were taken back to the unit's staging area when it received word from their Chain of Command that the four men in custody were likely to be released due to insufficient evidence.

According to the allegations, Hatley and two other senior non-commissioned officers then took the four men to a remote location, handcuffed and blindfolded them, and placed them on their knees before opening fatal fire. The allegations further claim that the bodies were supposedly disposed of in a canal.

The Criminal Investigation Division (CID) conducted a thorough investigation into these allegations and found no physical or forensic evidence to indicate a murder had been committed. Based initially on the word of one soldier, who was soon to be subject to disciplinary action, and the testimony at trial of two soldiers who changed their stories when threatened by prosecutors with potential life sentences as co-conspirators, First Sergeant Hatley was convicted of premeditated murder in spite of the complete absence of forensic evidence, including the two bodies which were never found nor matched by reports of missing persons from the family or friends of the purported victims.

The process and outcome of First Sergeant Hatley's case is a detriment to the morale of our soldiers, with disastrous consequences on the battlefield. We ask these men and women to risk their lives for us, yet they see a system that is unwilling to stand up for them – and even rigged against them. To them, the story of First Sergeant Hatley is the story of a 20-year combat veteran with a stellar record, a hero of

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this nation, convicted of pre-mediated murder under a legal standard no civilized country would otherwise tolerate. In other words, we are telling our people in uniform that their livelihoods are at the mercy of a single malicious rumor.

Before his arrest, First Sergeant Hatley had an outstanding career as a soldier and leader in the U.S. Army. He deployed to Iraq in 2004 to 2005 as an operation non-commissioned officer with the 1st Infantry Division. He was selected as First Sergeant, Company A of the 2nd "Dagger" Brigade which was under constant attack, having 43 soldiers killed in action during their deployment.

First Sergeant Hatley is an excellent candidate for release with strong family support, offers of employment, and plans to build a home for his disabled mother and father. His exemplary military service, stellar moral compass, and impeccable record since being confined has resulted in multiple sentence reductions and speak to his worthiness for parole.

Respectfully, we would submit that justice would be served best by wielding favorably your discretionary powers when considering the release of First Sergeant John Hatley.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515



Rep. Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



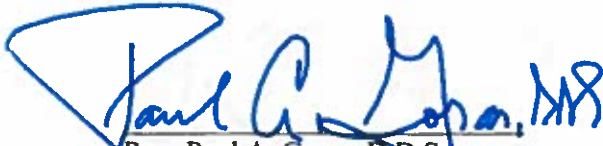
Rep. Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



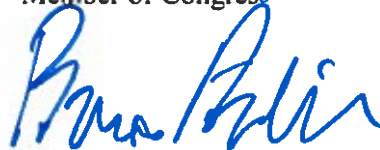
Rep. Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Rep. Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress



Rep. Paul A. Gosar, D.B.S.  
Member of Congress




Rep. Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



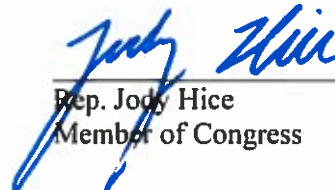
Rep. Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



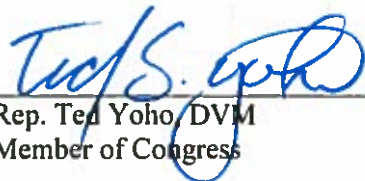
Rep. Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress



Rep. Steve King  
Member of Congress



Rep. Jody Hice  
Member of Congress



Rep. Ted Yoho, DVM  
Member of Congress



Rep. Garrett Graves  
Member of Congress



Rep. Scott Perry  
Member of Congress