Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for the March 3, 2011 letter from Dr. Clifford L. Stanley, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, regarding the Medal of Honor nomination for Chaplain (Captain) Emil J. Kapaun. While we appreciate your attention to this matter, we request a clarification to the March letter.

In February, the Kansas congressional delegation wrote to inform you of legislation offered in both the House and Senate to waive the statutory time limitation for the award of the Medal of Honor to Father Kapaun. Since then, the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act for 2012, which includes the time waiver provision allowing the award of the Medal of Honor to Father Kapaun.

Dr. Stanley kindly responded to the delegation letter indicating that the Department supports time waiver legislation, but there has been some confusion in Congress as to whether the Department supports time waiver legislation specifically for Father Kapaun. Therefore, we respectfully request you to convey your support of the time waiver provision for Father Kapaun to the Committees on Armed Services in the Senate and House. This action will ensure final passage of the provision, and then permit you and the President the authority to grant this important honor.

As a fellow Kansan, we hope you agree that Father Kapaun deserves this long overdue recognition and therefore look forward to your timely response. We appreciate your willingness to work together to honor the actions of our hometown hero. Finally, as you move forward to the next chapter in your career, we want to express our sincere appreciation for your strong leadership of our armed forces and dedicated service to our great nation. You will be sorely missed in Washington.

Sincerely,

Pat Roberts
Senator Pat Roberts

Jerry Moran
Senator Jerry Moran

Tim Huelskamp
Congressman Tim Huelskamp

Lynn Jenkins
Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins

Kevin Yoder
Congressman Kevin Yoder

Mike Pompeo
Congressman Mike Pompeo

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