

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in strong support of your awarding the Medal of Honor to (Captain) Chaplain Emil J. Kapaun.

During the Korean War, Father Kapaun served as a chaplain of the 8th Cavalry Regiment of the First Army Division. Amidst the devastating Battle of Unsan, Kapaun pulled wounded soldiers to safety and attended to their injuries. He was taken prisoner along with other American soldiers and carried severely injured fellow soldiers on his back—rallying others to help in a similar fashion.

While in the prison camp, he served his comrades by escaping to steal food from nearby farms to bring back to the starving prisoners. He cared for sick soldiers, washed them, shared his food with them, and inspired them with his unfailing faith and acts of generosity until his death in May 1951. Fellow soldiers who benefitted from or witnessed the many examples of Father Kapaun's service shared the stories of his heroism after their release. One soldier's description of Father Kapaun's courage is most fitting: "Father Kapaun's courage had the softness of velvet and the strength of iron."

In 2009, the Kansas Delegation was informed that Father Kapaun's Medal of Honor application received official support from the Secretary of the Army. From there the Delegation worked to pass time waiver legislation allowing the President to make the actual award. The time waiver provision was ultimately included in the final Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 112-81). In January of this year, the Delegation requested Secretary Panetta's quick action in advancing the Medal of Honor to your desk for final consideration. If and when you are presented with the opportunity to award the Medal of Honor to Father Kapaun, we urge you to act positively and expeditiously.

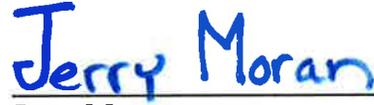
Father Kapaun is an inspiration for people in both the Catholic faith and military communities. His selfless and heroic service has been a model for generations of Americans. It is beyond time to properly recognize this amazing soldier, spiritual leader, and American.

We appreciate your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



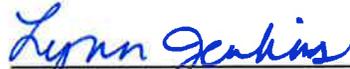
Pat Roberts
United States Senate



Jerry Moran
United States Senate



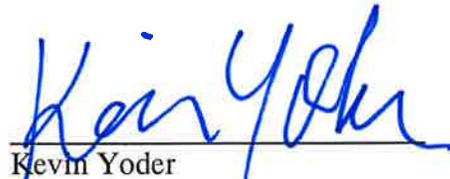
Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress



Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress