

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

U.S. Army Lieutenant Clint Lorange was convicted in 2013 for circumstances that we believe are unworthy of a criminal conviction and which deserve the full review and consideration of your office. Without the full vetting of all evidence, Lt. Lorange's conviction and sentence are flawed and unjust. We join with the countless Americans, family, friends and service members who respectfully urge your full consideration of his circumstances including his pardon, commutation or reduced sentence.

Lt. Lorange is currently serving a 19-year sentence for ordering members of his platoon to fire upon three males moving in a rapid, threatening manner toward his platoon's position while on patrol in Afghanistan. We believe Lt. Lorange has been wrongfully imprisoned because he ordered defensive action against persons who were later confirmed to be enemy combatants, and that his sentencing occurred without full consideration of all facts and evidence.

Lt. Lorange had reasonable suspicion that his platoon was being scouted for an impending ambush and that his platoon was under threat of exposure to improvised explosive devices (IEDs). At the time of their patrol in the Zhari District of Afghanistan, it was widely known that many Taliban bomb makers originated from this area, and that the Zhari District was among the highest risk areas in Kandahar Province for IED events. Thirty days prior to the July 2, 2012, incident, there were twenty-eight IED events in Zhari District. Notably, Lt. Lorange's immediate predecessor as Platoon Leader was medically evacuated with wounds to his eyes, face and abdomen from an IED blast. Most importantly, fingerprint and DNA evidence following the attack identified the assailants as known enemy combatants, despite the prosecution claiming their status as civilian.

Lt. Lorange was tasked to lead soldiers in combat and to protect their safety. Given the circumstances of the event, and the nature in which he acted, we believe that Lt. Lorange acted justifiably, within the rules of engagement, and in accordance with his training as a U.S. Army officer.

Further, we remain concerned about the dangerous precedent of this outcome on the recruitment and retention of military personnel, who are trained to risk their lives in combat conditions, and who likewise risk punishment for doing the very thing they are trained to do. In the case of Lt. Lorange, he is being

punished without being judged on the full array of evidence and facts that help strengthen his defense. Will future military personnel likewise be required to endure similar "combat" on the field and in the courtroom? Lastly, we are guided in our sentiment by the volumes of communication we have received from officers and enlisted, current and retired, flag officers and Judge Advocates, representing all service branches, who vehemently maintain that Lt. Lorance's conviction is morally and legally wrong, and which has a chilling, dangerous impact on our nation's war fighters' ability to defend themselves in combat.

We therefore urge your full consideration of Lt. Lorance's case and to exercise your authority as President of the United States to grant him the justifiable remedy he, and future military personnel, deserves.

Sincerely,



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



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



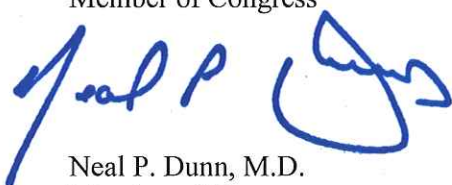
Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



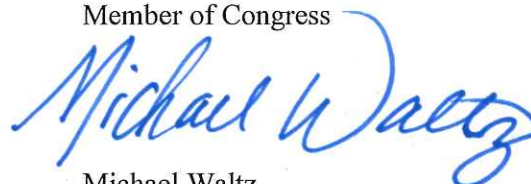
Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress