

# Appeal Discovery Document 716

## Perspective

On Memorial Day 2018, we witnessed the placing of a plaque commemorating an airplane crash on a wall reserved for plaques honoring Medal of Honor or Service Cross winners. The perpetrators had no authority to do so but did it anyway with complete disregard to policy and the law. Last May they intended to repeat their disregard for the law but were caught in the act by the monument's founder Richard Buchanan who filed an objection with the VSO<sup>1</sup> who in turn authorized a hearing of veteran's commissioners consistent with policy. During the days leading to that hearing and during the hearing the commissioners and the public were led to believe that Mr. Buchanan was opposed to providing appropriate honoraria for Captain Jacobs, or recognizing his status as a hero. Consequently, Mr. Buchan received threatening phone calls and was labeled a racist as was Mr. Schoniger, a supporter of Buchanan. Subsequently, the hearing commissioners voted 5-0 to deny the appeal. Mr. Buchanan appealed and commenced a program designed to inform the commissioners, the public and the Board of Supervisors the truth that he has always desired significant honoraria for not only Captain Jacobs but the crew of the Kirk for escorting the remnants of the Vietnamese navy filled with civilian passengers to safety in the Philippines. Buchanan simply did not want to see the last few spaces reserved for congressional medal and service cross winners occupied by arbitrary honoraria misleading by its placement. While The Alliance allowed the perpetuation of racist allegations and Messrs. Buchanan and Schoniger endured such slander, Richard's team initiated a truth campaign that finally shows signs of being effective. So far two of the commissioners have withdrawn their negative votes vote denying Buchanan's objection to the Jacobs plaque and others are expected to follow.

“Nothing distinguishes more clearly conditions in a free country from those in a country under arbitrary government than the observance in the former of the great principle known as the Rule of Law. Stripped of all technicalities, this means that government in all of its actions is bound by rules fixed and announced beforehand—rules which make it possible to foresee with fair certainty how the authority will use its cohesive powers in given circumstances and to plan one's individual affairs on the basis of that knowledge.” F.A. Hayek “The Road to Serfdom.”

Mr. Hayek represents the view that 1.4 million American veterans died to defend. The rule of law is the underpinning of our freedom. Laws are not written for a few and they should not be ignored or changed for the convenience of a few. They are the nation's backbone and should be

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<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/Veterans/Documents/Veterans%20Monument%20Appeal%20Committee%20Meeting%206-21-2021.pdf>

treated as such. The laws governing the placement of honoraria in the monument were codified into law by the BOS of El Dorado County in 2007.

We intend to provide clear unambiguous evidence to the Board of Supervisors that the Jacobs plaque should not have been presented to Captain Jacob's grieving son for future placement on the wall reserved for medal of honor or service cross recipients, or that Buchanan, or any member of his team considered the captain a non-hero by placement of much more appropriate honoraria for his exceptional service elsewhere in the monument. This has always been a problem with a very simple solution that we hope to present to the Board of Supervisors in the days to come.

We very much appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to a win-win solution on July 27, 2021.

Ken Schoniger

For Richard Buchanan

By direction