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NVLSP

NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

February 6, 2009

The Honorable John J. Hall
Chairman
Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
337 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hall:

The National Veterans Legal Service Program (NVLSP) commends you and your Subcommittee for drafting H.R. 6732, a bill that would clarify the meaning of "combat with the enemy" for purposes of service-connection of disabilities. This bill is long overdue and will provide many disabled American veterans and their families with the justice that they have been lacking.

Title I, section 101 provides a definition of the term "combat with the enemy" (used in Section 1154(b)), that would help many veterans establish credible evidence of a stressor for PTSD purposes as well as provide evidence that could support claims for service connection for other disabilities. NVLSP suggests, however, that the phrase "campaign, or expedition" be inserted after "war" on line 19 to make certain that non-declared wars are covered.

Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Barton F. Stichman
Joint Executive Director

Ronald B. Abrams
Joint Executive Director