

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 17, 2019

The Honorable Mark T. Esper  
Secretary  
Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E880  
Washington, DC 20310-1000

The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy  
Secretary of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon, Room 3E700  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Secretary Esper and Secretary McCarthy:

Each of us proudly served in the United States military or worked at the Department of Defense. In addition, each of us cares about the process our nation uses to award medals for military valor, believing this process should satisfy the most rigorous standards of independence and integrity. Finally, each of us recognizes and respects that the Medal of Honor should be conferred upon only a servicemember whose combat performance demonstrated “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty.”

We are aware that the Department is conducting a multi-year review of valor medals that were awarded in conflicts occurring after September 11, 2001. We understand from public reporting that, as a result of this review, approximately 60 awards have been upgraded, including a number of awards that were upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

We write to respectfully request that you carefully consider the case of Sergeant First Class Alwyn Crendall Cashe, who earned the Silver Star for his actions in Iraq on October 17, 2005. We will not use this occasion to recount SFC Cashe’s actions in detail, but they nearly defy description. In summary, after his unit’s Bradley Fighting Vehicle hit an improvised explosive device, SFC Cashe—who was thrown from the vehicle and virtually unharmed—returned again and again to the burning vehicle to extract his fellow soldiers. SFC Cashe saved the lives of multiple soldiers, but suffered severe burns in the process and ultimately died from those burns. SFC Cashe has become something of a legend in military circles, the object of profound respect and even reverence.

Each of us was deeply moved upon learning of SFC Cashe’s heroism. We have tried to honor him to the greatest extent possible, consistent with our position as Members of Congress. One of us

(Congresswoman Murphy) secured the passage of legislation to name a federal building in Oviedo, Florida after SFC Cashe, who was raised in the city. Two of us (Congressman Crenshaw and Congressman Waltz) offered a successful floor amendment to the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act expressing support for SFC Cashe's Silver Star to be upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

We believe that SFC Cashe has earned the highest award for military valor that our nation bestows, and we hope you will ensure that his case is scrutinized with the utmost care.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress