

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

November 17, 2020

The Honorable Chris Miller  
Acting Secretary  
Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E880  
Washington, DC 201310-1000

Dear Acting Secretary Miller:

We write regarding the late Sergeant First Class Alwyn Cashe, whose well-documented heroism in Iraq on October 17, 2005 led to him being posthumously awarded the Silver Star. There has been a years-long campaign to get SFC Cashe's Silver Star upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

On October 17, 2019, we wrote a letter to then-Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, expressing our view that SFC Cashe earned the highest award for military valor that our nation bestows, and asking that his case be scrutinized with the utmost care.<sup>1</sup> On August 24, 2020, the Secretary formally responded to our letter.<sup>2</sup> He wrote:

After giving the nomination careful consideration, I agree that SFC Cashe's actions merit award of the Medal of Honor. However, 10 U.S.C. § 7274 requires that the Medal of Honor be awarded "within five years after the date of the act justifying the award." Before we can take further action with this nomination, Congress must waive this time limit. Once legislation is enacted authorizing the President of the United States to award, if he so chooses, the Medal of Honor to SFC Cashe, I will provide my endorsement to the President. The final award authority for the Medal of Honor rests solely with the President.

On September 16, 2020, we introduced H.R. 8276, which waived the five-year time limit with respect to SFC Cashe and thereby authorized the President to award SFC Cashe the Medal of Honor.<sup>3</sup> The bill was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives by unanimous consent on September 22, 2020. The bill was approved by the U.S. Senate by unanimous consent on November 10, 2020. The bill will soon be presented to the President for his signature.

Once H.R. 8276 is signed into law, we respectfully request that you, on behalf of the Department of Defense, swiftly provide your endorsement to the President. We recognize and respect that the final award authority for the Medal of Honor rests solely with the President.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://murphy.house.gov/uploadedfiles/101719\\_letter\\_from\\_reps\\_murphy\\_crenshaw\\_and\\_waltz\\_to\\_the\\_defense\\_department\\_regarding\\_sfc\\_alwyn\\_cashe.pdf](https://murphy.house.gov/uploadedfiles/101719_letter_from_reps_murphy_crenshaw_and_waltz_to_the_defense_department_regarding_sfc_alwyn_cashe.pdf).

<sup>2</sup>[https://murphy.house.gov/uploadedfiles/secretary\\_esper\\_-\\_sfc\\_cashe\\_letter.pdf](https://murphy.house.gov/uploadedfiles/secretary_esper_-_sfc_cashe_letter.pdf).

<sup>3</sup><https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8276/actions>.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy, Secretary of the Army