

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

December 5, 2007

The Honorable Pete Geren  
Secretary of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Pete,

We are extremely gratified by the decision of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records to overturn the convictions of the African American soldiers wrongly convicted in the 1944 killing of Guglielmo Olivotto at Seattle's Fort Lawton. The Army's decision was clear and unequivocal and removed a stain on the service's honor.

One of the two surviving former soldiers, Sam Snow of Florida, was an appellant when the Board reviewed the case and has been issued a check for a small sum of money representing his lost Army pay while incarcerated based on the conviction. Based on his pay rate in 1944, Mr. Snow was issued a check for \$725 for one years' lost pay while he was jailed. The figure was not adjusted for inflation and the check did not reflect any interest for the 63 years the Army withheld Mr. Snow's pay.

I am writing to ask you to reconsider and increase this award, as well as the awards to others who qualify under the Board's decision. As I am sure you will agree, a check for \$725 is not fair to Mr. Snow.

Please let me know what can be done to more reasonably compensate Mr. Snow and others. If the Army does not have the discretion to increase the compensation offered and legislation is required, we stand ready to work with you to introduce and pass it. Obviously, time is of the essence, so we look forward to your quick reply.

Sincerely,



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

cc: Director Catherine C. Mitrano, Army Board for Correction of Military Records