

Burn Pits 360° Veterans Organization

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October 6, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear. Mr. President

America's veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are dying. We need you to act.

We, the undersigned, served our country in these wars or are family members of fallen heroes. We write on behalf of the tens of thousands of veterans who faced toxic exposure to the open-air burn pits that operated in Iraq and Afghanistan to dispose of waste. We write because these veterans are seriously ill, dying or have passed away – and more must be done.

Many of us went to war able to run marathons, but now our health has deteriorated so much that we cannot hold down steady jobs. We are misdiagnosed. We are not receiving the medical care we urgently need. We need you to act in this, your final year in office.

Fulfill the promises you made to our military service members and their family members. In a 2009 White House roundtable, you promised that burn pit exposure would not become another Agent Orange, with the government denying the effects, stalling research and failing to provide treatment. You concluded, "Nobody is served by denial or sweeping things under the rug."

With your remaining time in office, we urge you to take these actions to help impacted service members and veterans:

1. Provide us care. Create a specialized health care benefits and compensation fund modeled after the 9/11 James Zagroda Act for the World Trade Center 9/11 victims.
2. End the secrecy. Direct agencies to declassify and make public every air sampling ever conducted in both theatres.
3. Don't let the Department of Defense and the Veteran's Administration sweep us under the rug. Commission an independent research study research to better understand health conditions and deaths related to the effects of combustion burning.
4. Recognize the fallen heroes. Mandate the Department of Defense and Department of Veteran Affairs Secretaries to fulfill the intent of Public Law 112-260 by allowing the families of the fallen to submit a death entry into the National Airborne Hazards Open Burn Pit Registry. Until recently, soldiers were presented with a Purple Heart medal as an acknowledgement of

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physical wounds received in action. We call on you to initiate discussions to allow the granting a Purple Heart to those who suffer toxic exposures.

5. Use your voice. Use the power and platform of your office to speak out and educate the American people about this generation's Agent Orange.

For those who suffered from Agent Orange during Vietnam, history proves that the President failed at fulfilling President Lincoln's promise: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's Veterans.

Leave an honorable legacy by helping the service members, Veterans, and families affected by this injustice.

You, and only you, can do this.

Respectfully,

Burn Pit Families

(See Enclosed List of Supporters)

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