

VERN BUCHANAN
DISTRICT 16, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
TAX-WRITING COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
TRADE
HEALTH



COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
FLORIDA DELEGATION
CO-CHAIR
CAUCUS ON INNOVATION &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
CO-CHAIR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0916

October 7, 2015

The Honorable John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Secretary McHugh,

In light of your decision to delay the discharge of Sgt. Charles Martland, I write today urging you to follow up with a full and swift reinstatement of a man who should be commended for confronting a child rapist in Afghanistan.

Postponing Sgt. Martland's separation from the military for 60 days to allow him time to file an appeal is a good first step, but the Army must act to reverse his forced discharge. Sgt. Martland is a hero - not a villain - and he should be treated as such.

Driving Sgt. Martland out of the Army for standing up for American values is a national disgrace. It's bad enough if we were ignoring this type of barbaric and savage behavior, it's even worse if we are punishing American heroes who try to stop it.

While I appreciate your willingness to reopen Sgt. Martland's case, I urge you to reverse the outrageous decision to discharge him from the Army and allow him to return to service as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Ash Carter, Secretary of Defense