



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

DEC 23 2002

Mr. Jack Valenti
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Motion Picture Association
1600 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

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Dear Jack,

I received your letter. I am advised that Secretary Cohen's waiver on your behalf will be honored whenever it may be necessary.

Here's hoping that is not anytime soon!

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Pat for the holidays
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JACK VALENTI
CHAIRMAN
AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

December 1, 2002

1600 EYE STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC. 20006
TELEPHONE: 202/293-1966
TELECOPIER: 202/452-9823

Dear Rummy

I hesitated to intrude on you when your day is filled to the plimsoll line with the war on terrorism and other life-and-death encounters. But I come to anyway, because my request has to do with death - my own.

When that moment comes for me as it will for all humans, I would dearly love to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. I count myself a patriot defined as one who willingly and gladly is ready to serve his country, to fight and to die if need be to preserve, protect and defend this free and loving land.

My background is, I dare to hope, ample evidence that this request is reasonable. I was a First Lieutenant (O-772238), a combat pilot, flying a twin-engine B-25 attack bomber (the Billy Mitchell) with the Army Air Corps in World War II. I was a member of the 12th Air Force, 57th Bomb Wing, 321st Group, 448th Squadron.

I flew 51 combat missions out of Solenzara, Corsica and Ancona, Italy. I was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with four clusters, the Distinguished Unit Citation with one cluster and the European Theater Ribbon with three battle stars.

From November 22, 1963 to June, 1966, I served as Special Assistant to President Lyndon Johnson. I want to believe that my service in war, and in the White House, have earned me the privilege of being buried at Arlington. I have been told by the Defense Department under previous Secretaries of Defense that the DFC (which was also awarded to President George H.W. Bush) is not enough; a Silver Star is required. The authority to grant my request then rests with the Secretary of Defense. Two years ago, the then Secretary, William Cohen, did write me a letter granting me this privilege. If a former Secretary's grant has no authority in the future, then I come to you asking that you grant me the right to rest forever in Arlington.

Forgive this intrusion, Rummy, but life is chancy. I do not choose to have my wife scurry around trying to get my body into Arlington, which is why I write you now to save her that final desperation.

With great affection
Jack