

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 7, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
16000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

I respectfully recommend that you posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Specialist Four Lester Williams, Jr., of Bridgeton, New Jersey. His extraordinary heroism and selflessness while serving with Battery C, 8th Battalion, 6th Artillery, 1st Infantry Division in An Loc, Republic of Vietnam went above and beyond the call of duty. Lester gave the last full measure of devotion, willingly sacrificing his life, to save the lives of his comrades.

When his unit's night position came under attack by the North Vietnamese Army, Lester exposed himself to mortar and rocket-propelled grenade rounds to reach his bunker and machine gun. While firing into the advancing North Vietnamese soldiers, an enemy grenade landed in his bunker. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Lester instinctively threw himself upon the grenade, sacrificing his own life so others could live.

For his heroic action in An Loc, Lester was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 1968. As the Department of Defense reviews all Distinguished Service Crosses awarded to African Americans during the Vietnam War, I respectfully urge you to properly recognize Lester's sacrifice. His conspicuous gallantry and unwavering devotion to duty is worthy of our country's highest military honor.

Sincerely,



George S. Helmy
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary of Defense
cc: The Honorable Christine Wormuth, Secretary of the Army