



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Honorable William S. Cohen,
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Pentagon, Washington D.C.

January 18, 1999

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to request your assistance and advocacy on behalf of two Women Veterans organizations. They are:

The Commission of Women Veterans in the State of Maine and Vietnam Women Veterans Inc.

The Commission on Women Veterans was created by the 118th State Legislature. The purpose of the Commission is to advise and make recommendations to the Governor and the Adjutant General of the State of Maine. (I chair this commission)

Vietnam Women Veterans Inc. is a National Organization made up of enlisted women and line officers who served in Vietnam. (I am an enlisted Vietnam Veteran) The enlisted women and line officer Veterans of Vietnam have never been officially recognized for service to their Country. These women served in specialties such as supply, logistics, intelligence, communications etc. Their deeds and accomplishments have been historically ignored in favor of Nurses and those Women who served with the Red Cross.

I ask your assistance in helping us to locate Women Veterans from Maine and Women Veterans who were stationed in Vietnam. The purpose for finding these

women veterans is to determine their needs, concerns, issues and to inform them of their benefits. We will also advocate for them on both the State and Federal levels. Any help in locating them would be deeply appreciated.

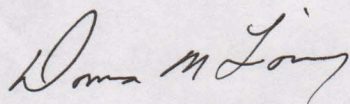
I will be in Washington D.C on February 24 and 25th to attend a pre-planning meeting on the first ever Vietnam Women Veterans Reunion. The Reunion is scheduled to take place in Olympia Washington from November 9 through the 13th 1999. We intend to publicize this event nationwide. We would be truly honored if you would attend and address the group. Your attendance would mean a great deal to the women who feel they have been invisible all these years. Would it be possible for someone from your office to meet with us on the 25th of February to discuss your possible attendance at our reunion and ways in which you could support or advocate for us?

Finally, on a personal note.

I was the Director of Security at your old school...Bowdoin College from 1991 -1997. I was the Director when you became Secretary of Defense and I was asked by the F.B.I to do a background check...Needless to say you passed with flying colors!!

I look forward to hearing from you and hope that you can help us and attend our Reunion ...Thank you in advance for your consideration in these matters.

Best Wishes



Donna M. Loring
Penobscot Nation Tribal Representative

PS

If you have questions please feel free to contact me at my home 207-737-2608 or at the Legislature 207-2287-1400