



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053**

September 21, 2026

Subject: Posthumous Award of the Navy Cross Award to Hospital Corpsman Russell H. Jacobson Jr.

To Whom it May Concern:

We are writing to express our strong support for the posthumous awarding of the Navy Cross to Hospital Corpsman Russell H. Jacobson Jr., whose extraordinary heroism during the March 16, 1967 engagement on Hill 861 near Khe Sanh represents the highest standard of valor.

On that day, Corpsman Jacobson selflessly braved intense enemy fire to treat and evacuate several wounded Marines under extraordinarily dangerous conditions. Despite sustaining multiple gunshot and grenade wounds himself, he continued to provide medical assistance to his comrades, a clear demonstration of valor "performed in the presence of great danger or at great personal risk" as required for consideration of the Navy Cross.

Records indicate that he was shot multiple times while moving wounded personnel from the battlefield; he was severely injured by a grenade blast to the hip and kidney; despite his injuries, he returned to aid others; and the enemy used his injured body as a decoy, attempting to draw fire from other Marines.

Corporal Herbert Thompson, one of the Marines whose life he saved, later wrote that Jacobson's actions were the decisive reason they survived. Following the engagement, Jacobson endured nearly a year of medical treatment that required dozens of surgeries and left him permanently disabled, and he walked with a brace and cane for the rest of his life.

These facts, all thoroughly documented by eyewitness affidavits, military records, and family testimony, underscore Russell Jacobson's extraordinary commitment to his duty and to his fellow service members. He undoubtedly exemplified the highest traditions of Navy and Marine Corps valor.

We join his son, David Jacobson, and veterans, including VFW Post Commander Denis Russell and Veterans Service Officer Roxanne Whitbeck of Plymouth, in urging the Navy to approve this well-deserved recognition.

Please accept our full endorsement of this petition and our sincere gratitude for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dylan F".

Dylan A. Fernandes
State Senator
Plymouth and Barnstable

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen R. LaNatra".

Kathleen R. LaNatra
State Representative
12th Plymouth

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle L. Badger".

Michelle L. Badger
State Representative
1st Plymouth