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September 9, 2008

General George Casey
Chief of Staff, United States Army
1600 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330

Dear General Casey,

I am writing to express my strong disapproval of the recent decision to commercialize the 1st Infantry Division's "Big Red One" unit patch in a fashion line at Sears. The "Big Red One" has a storied tradition of brave combat service to this nation. The 1st Infantry Division's combat service includes World War I, World War II, Vietnam, and currently the Global War on Terror.

The veterans who have worn this patch hold it in high regard. They earned the right to wear the "Big Red One" through hard work, rigorous training, service, and sacrifice. Their patch should not be sold to the highest bidder, only to be worn by individuals that have never served in the military and have no intention of doing so.

I am also concerned that this decision sets a dangerous precedence for future unit patches, Army clothing, and images of military medals to be sold to those who never served in these units. Is there precedence in the Department of the Army or the Department of Defense for such action? What is the reasoning behind this decision? My staff contacted Army Legislative Liaison and was told that the Army did not know who approved this action and that an investigation was underway.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this decision to commercialize the 1st Infantry Division's unit patch and ask that the Army does not sell other military symbols in the future.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress