

LYNN SMITH DERBYSHIRE
National Spokesperson, Beirut Families
Sister of Capt. Vincent L. Smith (USMC)

May 1, 2014

Honorable Walter B. Jones
United States House of Representatives
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Jones:

As we near Memorial Day, it is my honor to thank you on behalf of all victims of terrorism for your tireless efforts to bring terrorists to justice. Specifically, I want to thank you on behalf of the men killed and injured in the 1983 Beirut bombing and their families. Your efforts to help us bring the government of Iran to justice for its role in the tragedy that killed 241 American servicemen and injured countless more are greatly appreciated and highly commendable. You have been steadfast in your dedication to us as victims of terrorism, and we thank you for it.

I am the National Spokesperson for The Beirut Families, which is a group of 1300 American families from across our country - 25 are from your District. We know first-hand the brutality of the 1983 Beirut bombing. The group includes surviving victims and families - parents, widows, children, sisters and brothers- of those killed in the Iranian sponsored attack on the Marine Barracks in Beirut. More than 200 Marines from Camp Lejeune lost their lives in that terrible attack, while they were serving as peace keepers, meaning they had severe limitations on what they could do to defend themselves. My brother, Captain Vincent Smith (USMC) was among those who died, and my family has never been the same.

Over the last 30 years, the victims and families have been seeking justice from Iran. Your direct efforts have helped us achieve some success. Repeatedly, you have led bi-partisan legislation to help us hold the mullahs in Iran responsible for murder.

Thank you. You are a true patriot, and a great Congressman. We are grateful to you for your dedication to what is right and for your tireless efforts to make the murderers in Iran pay for their heinous disregard for human life.

Sir, you have the confidence of our group, which has lost so much to Iranian thugs and killers. We look forward to working with you in the years to come to make sure that Iran, and other terrorists, cannot wantonly kill Americans without consequences. You have helped us send the message that they cannot get away with murder. As the sister of man who was killed by terrorists, this is extremely important to me. You are a true American. We need more men and women like you in Congress.

With great respect and gratitude,



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