



## ***AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION***

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February 18, 2010

Congressman Bob Filner  
United States House of Representatives  
2428 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0551

Dear Congressman Filner,

On behalf of the Air Force Sergeants Association's 120,000 members, I offer our support for H.R. 2254, the "Agent Orange Equity Act of 2009." This legislation is of high interest to many of our members. Our Association represents the *Total Air Force* enlisted corps—current, retired, and veteran members of the Air Force Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve—and their families.

Thank you for introducing this legislation, which serves to change the U.S. Code to declare that those veterans who served within the Republic of Vietnam (including the surrounding waterways, ports, harbors, offshore waters, and airspace), Johnston Island, and those who received either a Vietnam Service Medal or a Vietnam Campaign Medal, to be eligible for presumptive exposure to Agent Orange.

This legislation you have introduced recognizes the service our fellow military comrades have rendered to this Nation and the promise we have to take care of them and their families, as they suffer from life-threatening service-connected disabilities. As President Obama said,

*When Americans answer the call of duty and serve in our Armed Forces, a sacred trust is forged. Our men and women who have served in the uniform of the United States of America risked their lives to protect our freedoms. Beginning at enlistment, we must do all in our power to support and provide them with the benefits they have earned. Our Nation's first President understood this obligation—as I do—to be "a debt of honor."*

Congressman Filner, we applaud your initiative on this issue and your strong support for those who serve this nation. I offer this Association's assistance to help you, and we look forward to working with you on this and other matters of mutual interest.

Sincerely,

JOHN R. "DOC" McCAUSLIN, CMSgt, USAF, Retired  
Chief Executive Officer

**Serving the *Total Air Force* Enlisted Corps  
And Their Families since 1961**