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Lawson W. Magruder III  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army Retired  
11141 Monmouth  
San Antonio, Texas 78239  
September 28th, 2017

Honorable Keith Self  
2300 Bloomdale Road Suite 4192  
Mckinney, Texas 75071

Dear Judge Self:

The purpose of this letter is to request your support in naming the Collin County Courthouse after a genuine American hero, 1st Lt Russell A. Steindam. As you are probably aware, Russ is a "son of Collin County" who posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his gallantry in action on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1970 during combat in the Republic of South Vietnam. My recommendation is based on my personal friendship with Russ during our three years in Army ROTC at the University of Texas at Austin and my father's relationship with Russ as his Professor of Military Science. Let me explain in brief why I strongly believe this recognition should be given to Russ.

Russ was a year ahead of me at UT and was a key leader in ROTC his senior year. As a fellow student but also a subordinate of his, I got to watch Russ up close as the battalion commander of our infantry battalion. I greatly admired his authentic, humble nature, his positive attitude, his sense of humor, his intellect, his professionalism and desire to learn and grow, and his ability to lead and mentor junior cadets such as myself. He defined for us "competence" and "dedication to duty". He had a strong desire to serve our Nation and we all knew he had an incredible willingness to sacrifice when he was commissioned and departed for active duty and service in Vietnam. Little did we know that willingness to sacrifice would be demonstrated in the ultimate manner when he gave his own life to save the lives of his troopers.

My Dad, Col Lawson W. Magruder Jr, was a highly decorated infantryman who served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He too understood sacrifice having been wounded three times in World War II. Russ's senior year, my Dad got to know him quite well. He remembered Russ as a hard-charging young leader who possessed the "it factor" with the charisma and other leadership attributes needed to excel as a combat

Judge Self  
September 28th, 2017  
Page 2

leader. My Dad recognized Russ as a Distinguished Military Graduate and commissioned him into the Regular Army in the summer of 1968. Little did my Dad know that 17 months later he would escort Russ' body back from Travis Air Force Base to Collin County for his final honors. My Dad admired Russ so much that after he was honored with our Nation's highest award in December 1971 he succeeded in getting the ROTC building at UT-Austin named after Russ. It remained named after him until it was razed a few years ago to construct a new Liberal Arts building. I and others have been unsuccessful thus far in having the new building named after Russ.

I think it is only fitting that the next building to be named after Russ be in Collin County where he grew up; where his values of respect, loyalty, and service to others were solidified; and where he was instilled with an incredible patriotic fervor and love for his great State and our wonderful Nation.

As a fellow veteran of our great Army, I know you truly understand the supreme sacrifice Russ made for our Nation. I strongly recommend you and the other County Commissioners permanently honor my friend and fellow soldier with the naming of your courthouse after Russell A. Steindam.

Sincerely,



Lawson W. Magruder III  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army Retired