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October 17, 2017

Honorable Keith Self
County Judge, Collin County
2300 Bloomdale Rd Suite 4192
McKinney, Texas 75071

SUBJECT: Proposal to Re-name the Collin County Courthouse in honor of 1st Lt. Russell A. Steindam, MOH

Dear Judge Self:

As residents of Collin County, Texas, and veterans of the United States Armed Forces, we respectfully request that the Commissioners Court consider re-naming the Collin County Courthouse in honor of 1st Lt. Russell Albert Steindam, who was awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War. An honors graduate of Plano High School class of 1964, he attended The University of Texas where he graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate of the Reserve Officers Training Corps program in 1968. A graduate of the US Army Ranger School, he served with the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. Collin County is unique in that two men have earned the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest honor. The first was Audie Murphy who lived to wear the medal and became a world famous hero and Russell Steindam, who received his medal posthumously for saving the lives of his fellow soldiers. Russell A. Steindam is a virtual unknown in our community.

Russell A. Steindam lived a life of virtuous achievement as a scholar and patriot, serving our nation in a time of need. He dedicated himself to achieving the highest standards of achievement in the Army by earning a Ranger tab and further demonstrated service beyond the call of duty to the soldiers under his command by sacrificing his own life so that they may live another day and return home to their families. Sadly, even within the veteran community, the name Russell Steindam is not well known in his home county. Our nation accorded him the highest honor it can bestow, and his achievements and dedication make him an outstanding example as a role model for our youth. In short, we believe our community would be well served if the name "Russell A. Steindam" was as well-known as that of Audie Murphy.

In an effort to cement the legacy of one of our county heroes and make him a household name, we respectfully request that the Collin County Commissioners Court consider naming the courthouse in honor of 1st Lt. Russell A. Steindam. A young man killed in the prime of life at the age of 24, left a wife at home pregnant with a son who would never get to know his father. A patriot who lived a life of achievement, dedication and honor, Russell A. Steindam is an excellent role model for our youth. Naming the Collin County Courthouse in his honor would help promote his legacy for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Ronnie RD Foster
USMC Veteran



Colin E. Kimball
USAF Veteran