

December 22, 2014

207 Vine Street
Easley, SC 29640

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

My name is Fred Black and I am a veteran of the Vietnam conflict. I served in the US Navy aboard the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown which is now a naval museum at Patriots Point. My term of duty was from August 1966 until May 1970. My entire service was on the USS Yorktown except for boot camp in San Diego California.

In February of 2014 I was diagnosed with mesothelioma, lung cancer in my right lung. I have worked in a carpet retail store, Coca Cola Bottling Company and S & D Coffee Inc since my discharge from the Navy. The Navy is the only place I could have been exposed to asbestos.

In March 2014 I filed a claim for Veteran benefits with the help of a Veterans advocate. He told me to take a copy of my claim to Senator Lindsey Graham and he would help me with getting my benefits. The only thing I have gotten from Senator Graham was an e-mail from him after (3) months, stating he had received my claim. When I would get a letter from the VA, I would get a letter from Senator Graham saying they had received a letter at his office and my letter from the VA should be self explanatory. I believe all Senator Graham wants to do is campaign for reelection and get his name in the newspaper and on television for big business and could care less for the individual veterans. We will get less help if he runs for president.

In November 2014 I received a letter from the VA turning me down for my benefits. I have filed a reconsider claim to please review my claim.

Governor Haley can you help me secure my benefits for disability?

I was in the hospital for (3) days in December 2013 and (3) days in February 2014. I have undergone chemo therapy. I was sent to Boston to Brigham and Women's Hospital for surgery in July 2014. I spent (10) days in the hospital and had to stay in Boston for (2) additional weeks to get a check up before coming home.

Air travel and hotels were at my expense for my wife and I. We do have insurance, however I am responsible for co-pays, air travel and hotels and meals while in Boston.

I am retired and was working part time for S & D Coffee Inc as the warehouse manager in Greer SC. I had to go out on medical leave in February 2014. I have not been able to work since that time. My doctor at the VA, Doctor Gretchen Kanab said I should get 100%.

If you could help me secure these benefits I would be most appreciative of your help. My wife and I voted for you on your first and second term. You have done a great job for the people of South Carolina. Thank you for your service!

Sincerely;


Fred A. Black